



WEB COMIC
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Romantic Adventures

The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

10¢

OH, HENRY, HENRY... **DON'T TURN AWAY FROM ME!** IT'S TRUE I'VE GOT **ONLY ONE YEAR TO LIVE!** BUT IT CAN BE A YEAR OF HAPPINESS IF YOU PROMISE TO LOVE ME AND STAY AT MY SIDE... **UNTIL THE END!**

I... I LOVED YOU... BUT **NOW...**

Can TRUE ROMANCE
CONQUER DEATH?
Read
"NO TIME FOR LOVE"
... Complete
IN THIS ISSUE!

HAVE A SLIMMER YOUTHFUL FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY!

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, with the amazing new adjustable front panel, controls your figure the way you want it, with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your mid section is reshaped and your back braced and you look and feel younger!

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Clasp your hands over your abdomen, press upwards and in gently but firmly. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT does for you, only the ADJUST-O-BELT does it better. Mail Coupon and test it at home for 10 days FREE at our expense!

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The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It readjusts easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant slenderizing figure control. It fashionably shapes your figure to its slimmest lines. Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT obeys your every wish. Pounds and inches seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order costing 2 or 3 times the price. It washes like a dream.

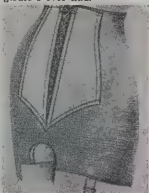
Style: Panty and regular. Colors: Nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle, with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight, but powerfully strong. It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer. Sizes 24 to 44 waist. Only \$3.98



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I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SENT ON APPROVAL!

From **RAGS** to ROMANCE



"It all started one December day in Florida, where I was spending the winter--the day we decided to drive out into the backwoods swamps to see how the **OTHER** half lived!"

I'M GLAD IT'S WAYNE'S TURN TO DRIVE! IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO SIT WITH YOU, ELOISE--EVEN IF YOU **ARE** HIS GIRL!

HEAR WHAT GORDON'S SAYING WAYNE? HOPE IT MAKES YOU JEALOUS CAUSE I THINK HE'S THE HANDSOMEST FRIEND YOU'VE GOT!

"I knew that Eloise was saying that merely because she enjoyed tantalizing me!

But whenever she acted this way, I could never down the stab of pain in my heart!"

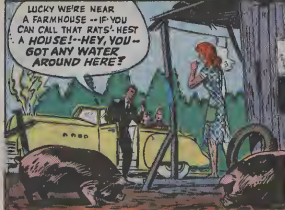
SHE KNOWS I'M SO DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH HER... SHE THINKS SHE CAN DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS--!

HEY--I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRIVE SO FAST IN THIS HOT WEATHER! **THE RADIATOR'S BOILING OVER!**



"Still fuming with jealousy, sullenly angry at both of them, I phoned over to the side of the back-wood's road ... near a broken-down hovel..."

LUCKY WE'RE NEAR A FARMHOUSE -- IF YOU CAN CALL THAT RAT'S' NEST A HOUSE!--HEY, YOU-- GOT ANY WATER AROUND HERE?



"My only answer was a jerk of the thumb! I stared a moment at that pitiful, ragged specimen of humanity, shrugged, and walked to the ramshackle well! When I returned with the water..."

UGH -- JUST LOOK AT HER -- OR IT, I SHOULD SAY! SHE'S MORE ANIMAL THAN HUMAN! I NEVER KNEW CREATURES LIKE THAT EXISTED--EVEN IN SWAMPS LIKE THESE!

LOOK AT THAT Gaping, MORONIC FACE OF HER'S-- SHE'S PROBABLY AN IDIOT!



"Yes, I felt the same way about the poor wretch as THEY did--but my anger at them was fanned by their smugness, their snobbish superiority! I must have deliberately picked that quarrel, not believing my own words..."

WELL, THAT'S THE WAY YOU TWO WOULD BE IF YOU WERE BROUGHT UP IN THIS ENVIRONMENT! WHY, A COUPLE OF YEARS DOWN HERE WOULD MAKE YOU JUST AS PRIMITIVE AS SHE IS,

ELOISE -- AND A COUPLE OF MONTHS IN NEW YORK WOULD MAKE A DEBUTANTE OUT OF HER!

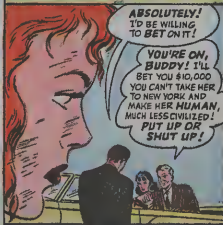
HAW! DO YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU COULD TAKE SOMEONE LIKE THAT AND MAKE HER AS CHARMING AND CIVILIZED AS ELOISE?



"Without thinking, still trying to strike back at them, I blurted out my answer..."

ABSOLUTELY! I'D BE WILLING TO BET ON IT!

YOU'RE ON, BUDDY! I'LL BET YOU \$10,000 YOU CAN'T TAKE HER TO NEW YORK AND MAKE HER HUMAN, MUCH LESS CIVILIZED! PUT UP OR SHUT UP!



"I realized I'd gone too far--was about to laugh the whole thing off as a joke! But then Eloise's cold smile and infuriating words made me lose complete control of myself!"

WHY DON'T YOU ADMIT YOU WERE JUST SHOOTING OFF YOUR BIG MOUTH, WAYNE-- THAT YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A COWARD TO TAKE THE BET! YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL IT'S INSANE TO THINK THAT ANYTHING COULD EVER BE MADE OUT OF A CREATURE LIKE THAT!

A COWARD, AM I? I... I'LL SHOW YOU-- I'LL MAKE A LADY OUT OF THAT RAGAMUFFIN IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! I'LL TAKE THAT BET!



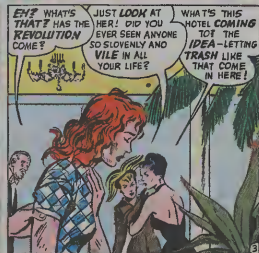
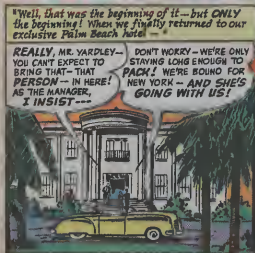
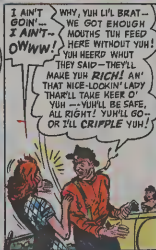
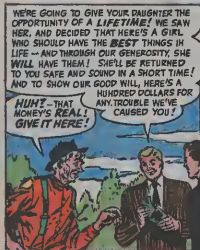
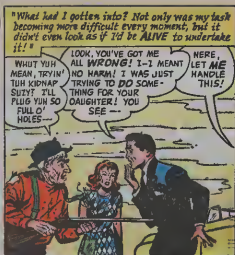
"I KNEW the insanity of it even as I spoke! That grubby, filthy little slattern could NEVER be changed! But I COULDN'T back down now -- not when I'd have to endure Eloise's mocking, contemptuous laughter! I HAD to go through with it!"

ER -- HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO -- COME TO NEW YORK WITH ME -- SEE THE BIG CITY -- BECOME A LADY? YOU'LL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT--



HEY! DON'T--!





"Upstairs, while I was packing in my room..."

WHY, YOU'RE **CRYING**! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN YOU COULD HAVE FEELINGS--ER-- I MEAN-- I GUESS YOU'RE LONESOME FOR YOUR FOLKS AND FAMILY--

"Suddenly, she whirled--and before I knew what she was about to do, I felt her nails raking my face!"

YUH--YUH BRUNG ME HERE SO'S THEY COULD **LAUGH** AT ME--I **HATE** YUH!

HEY--STOP! OWW!

"Desperately, I tried holding her off--but she swarmed over me like a raging wildcat!"

I HEARD 'EM DOWN THAR--LAUGHIN' AN' SAYIN' THINGS 'BOUT ME! I'LL **KILL YUH FER THIS!**

STOP IT, YOU LITTLE TIGRESS! I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO LAUGH AT YOU--

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED--DID THE **ZOO** BREAK LOOSE?

LEGGO! LEMME SCRATCH HIS EYES OUT!

DO YOU **STILL** THINK YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A **LADY** OUT OF HER, WISE GUY? --EASY, GAL, EASY!

LORD, WHAT A CLAWING SHE GAVE ME! THE NEXT TIME I MAKE A BET, IT'LL BE ABOUT SOMETHING **EASY**--LIKE **LION-TAMING!**

"Suzy was a frightened little animal as we put her in the back seat and started our long homeward drive! Only once during the trip did she stop her trembling, show that she was more than a huddled bundle of rags!"

OHH! SHE SNATCHED MY EARRING!

HAW! I WAS WONDERING WHEN SHE'D MAKE A GRAB FOR IT--SHE'S BEEN STARING AT IT FOR MILES! LET HER HAVE IT--WHEN I COLLECT THOSE 10,000 SMACKERS, I'LL BUY YOU A **BUSHEL** OF EARRINGS!

"By the time we arrived at my Park Avenue home, I was beginning to enjoy the situation! If it was going to cost me \$10,000, I might as well have some **FUN** out of it--and I started off by having to stifle my laughter at the look on my housekeeper's face as she saw Suzy!"

WELCOME BACK, SUSANNAH'S GOING TO BE OUR **HOUSE GUEST** FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS. MRS. HARDY! WHO'S **THIS**? SHE'S--ER... A LITTLE **GRIMY** FROM THE TRIP! WOULD YOU TAKE HER UP AND DROP HER INTO A BATH-TUB, PLEASE?

"I was unpacking when I heard Mrs. Hardy's shouts for help, and rushed to her aid! Had my little tigress broken loose **AGAIN**?"

MR. YARDLEY--HELP ME WITH HER! SHE--SHE'S LIKE A WILD ONE!

I AIN'T GOIN' IN NO WATER--I AIN'T! I'LL **KILL YUH** IF YUH MAKE ME!

"In a burst of inspiration, I suddenly recalled the earring episode -- and I realized how I could handle her!"

SUZY--YOU LIKE EARRINGS AND JEWELRY, DON'T YOU? WELL, IF YOU'RE GOOD AND PROMISE TO DO AS WE TELL YOU, I'LL GO OUT RIGHT NOW AND BUY YOU A **HATFUL!**

YOU'LL REALLY GIT 'EM FER ME--BRACELITS AN' RINGS AN' EVERYTHIN'? I... I PROMISE--- I'D DO ANYTHIN' FER JOOLERY!

"It worked! Exultantly, I left to shop for some clothes for Suzy--and for some **'JOOOLERY!'**"

OOOOO! IT--IT BURNS MUH EYES! MAN ALLUS SAID SOAP WUZZ INHEALTHY--- BUT SHE DIDNT TELL ME IT WUZZ **PIZEN!**

IT'S **NOT** POISON-- BUT I CAN SEE YOU STAYED AWAY FROM IT AS IF IT **WERE!** HEAVENS, WHAT A STATE YOU'RE IN-- YOU'RE A MIGHTY LUCKY GIRL MR. YARDLEY TAKES AN INTEREST IN YOU! **HE'LL** CHANGE YOU-- IF ANYBODY CAN!

"Later..."

I SHOULD HAVE GONE OUT AND BOUGHT YOU CLOTHES! MR. YARDLEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SIZE YOU WORE, SO HE GOT THOSE-- SINCE CALICO SHIRTS AND JEANS FIT ANYONE! BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE **CLEAN!**

AIN'T THEY **PURTY?** THESE ARE THE BESTEST CLOTHES I EVER HAD-- I'M GOIN' DOWN AN' SHOW 'EM OFF TUH HIM!

"When Suzy came running to me in the clothes I'd bought, her eyes almost begging for approval and admiration, I knew she had at least **ONE** attribute of a woman-- **VANITY!**"

THAT'S VERY NICE, SUSANNAH -- YOU LOOK VERY PRETTY! AND NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL CLEANED UP, WE'LL START RIGHT IN WITH OUR FIRST LESSON IN MAKING A **LADY** OUT OF YOU!

NO! NOT TILL YUH GIMME THE JOOLERY! YUH **PROMISED--!**

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN! -- **HERE IT IS!**

OOOO! LOOKIT 'EM-- **SHININ' LIKE STARS! GIMME!** LUCKY SHE NEVER HEARD OF WOOLWORTH'S!



"Like a **Savage**, she snatched away the trinkets I had purchased, strewn them gaudily over her person! Maybe this bet WAS going to be fun-- right now I had to use all my power to keep from bursting into riotous laughter!"

THAR! AIN'T I PURTY?

YES, SUZY -- YOU --- YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY LAUGHABLE -- I MEAN, **LOVABLE!**

"Then, with Suzy docile as a contented animal, our lessons started --"

DON'T SAY--'AIN'T I PRETTY?" SAY "AM I NOT PRETTY?"

HUH, YOU AIN'T PURTY! OHN, I SEE WHUT YUH MEAN --'AM I NOT PURTY?"

DOG -- D-O-G! CAT -- C-A-T!

DOG -- D-O -- GEE WHIZ, THIS SPELLIN' IS **HARD!**

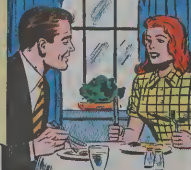


"Day after day, week after week, the lessons continued!"

I soon discovered that Suzy had an excellent mind - and she made remarkable progress, considering that her heart wasn't in it!"

NOW, THIS IS THE WAY **CIVILIZED** PEOPLE HOLD THEIR KNIVES AND FORKS WHEN THEY EAT!

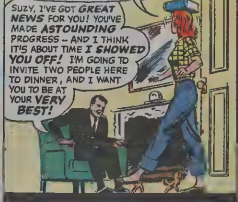
GOSH, I DON'T SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH **FINGERS!** BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO --



"Then, one day..."

THIS DICTIONARY IS **HEAVY!** BACK STRAIGHT... CHIN UP... STOMACH IN - GOSH, DO I HAVE TO KEEP **THIS** UP? HOW MUCH LONGER

SUZY, I'VE GOT **GREAT NEWS** FOR YOU! YOU'VE MADE **ASTOUNDING** PROGRESS - AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I **SHOWED YOU OFF!** I'M GOING TO INVITE TWO PEOPLE HERE TO DINNER, AND I WANT YOU TO BE AT YOUR **VERY BEST!**



"Yes, I wanted to be proud of the little human I'd fashioned out of an animal! I wanted to **GLOAT** over Eloise's discomfiture and Gordon's amazement! But I should have known what HER **VERY BEST** meant to Suzy - for on the night of the dinner..."

HAW, HAW! IS **THIS** THE **LADY** YOU WANTED US TO SEE? YOU'D BETTER GIVE HER BACK TO THE INDIANS!

HA, HA -- IT'S THE FUNNIEST THING I'VE SEEN IN **YEARS!** YOU'RE A **DARLING** TO HAVE PUT ON THIS SHOW FOR US, WAYNE! SHE'S A **RIOT!**

OH, **SUZY!**



"I sensed the fury in Suzy's eyes - and knew that the thin veneer I had imposed upon her was being stripped away, revealing the barbaric primitive that still smoldered beneath!"

YOU - YOU BRUNG 'EM HERE SO'S THEY COULD **LAUGH** AT ME -- JEST LIKE LAST TIME! I'M A **JOKE** TO YOU - **ALL** OF YOU! I **AIN'T** GONNA TAKE IT NO MORE - **I AIN'T!**



SUZY - PLEASE LISTEN - AND **DON'T SAY "AIN'T!"**

I **AIN'T** LISTENIN'... I **AIN'T** GONNA KEEP YOUR DIRTY PRESENTS - **HERE!**

HEY!



AN' I **AIN'T** GONNA STAY HERE NO MORE! I **HATE YOU -- ALL OF YOU!**

SUZY -- **WAIT!**



"By the time I got to the door, Suzy had already burst out of the house! I saw her standing frozen with fear, trembling, lost in the maze of blaring traffic outside the house!"



"By the time I could thread my way through the traffic, she had seized upon an opening and fled like a desperate, frightened fawn to the safety of the sidewalk--and collapsed there like a trapped animal, wracked with sobs!"

WHO IS SHE?
DID SHE ESCAPE
FROM SOME
INSTITUTION?

SHE'S HYSTERICAL --
CALL AN AMBULANCE!

HERE -- LET ME
THROUGH!
I'LL TAKE CARE
OF HER!

"I expected a fresh outburst of rage, and so I was momentarily stunned by the look of abject gratitude in her tear-streaked face -- as though I had rescued her from some horrible fate!"

WAYNE! YOU -- YOU
CAME FOR ME! OHH,
I WAS SO SCARIT --
I LIKED TO DIE!
I ... I DIDN'T MEAN
WHAT I SAID TO
YOU -- SAY YOU'LL
TAKE ME BACK
-- PLEASE!

HUSH, SUZY -- HUSH!
OF COURSE I'LL
TAKE YOU BACK!

"But Suzy's frightened sobs didn't stop! I guided her to a nearby park bench, tried to calm her fears! Casually, I brushed my lips against her cheek -- as I'd do to ANY terror-stricken child..."

THERE, THERE, SUZY --
EVERYTHING'LL BE ALL
RIGHT!

OH --
WAYNE!

HE -- HE
KISSED ME!
LIKE HE
LOVES
ME --

I -- I NEVER
EVEN
DREAMED
YOU -- YOU
COULD
CARE --

THERE! NOW YOU'RE
ACTING SENSIBLY...
I TOLD YOU THERE'S
NO NEED FOR TEARS!
AND YOU DON'T HAVE
TO KEEP ON THANKING
ME -- JUST SHOW YOUR
GRATITUDE BY REALLY
TRYING TO ACT LIKE
A LADY FROM NOW
ON!

"From then on, Suzy underwent a remarkable change! I couldn't understand it -- she threw herself enthusiastically into her lessons as if her heart were REALLY in it, and her progress was truly amazing! Finally --"

I HAVEN'T
SPILLED ANY
TEA FOR THE LAST
THREE CUPS -- AM
I ENOUGH OF A LADY
SO YOU'LL WANT TO
TAKE ME TO A
TEA-PARTY
NOW?

SUZY, YOU'RE TERRIFIC!
YOU'RE ENOUGH OF A
LADY NOW FOR ME
TO TAKE YOU TO A
REAL PARTY! I'M
SO PROUD OF YOU,
I WANT TO SHOW
YOU OFF TO ALL MY
FRIENDS!

"I WAS proud of my accomplishment at civilizing the little primitive I'd brought home! I determined to unveil her at one of Eloise's exclusive gatherings!"

SO THIS IS THE GIRL GORDON'S
BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT!
WELL, WAYNE -- WHAT CAN
SHE DO?

I'LL SHOW YOU! --
ALL RIGHT, SUSANNAH --
SAY SOMETHING FOR
THE NICE PEOPLE! TELL
THEM SOMETHING I'VE
TAUGHT YOU!

"I couldn't understand the hurt-stricken look she turned on me -- had I said something to offend her? But then, she forced herself to turn bravely toward the crowd, and she began speaking, stiffly, painfully..."

TO BE A LADY ... I MUST BE...
GRACEFUL ... POLITE ... CHARMING...
VIV -- VIVACIOUS...

"She'd certainly picked the wrong thing to say, but at least she'd shown her vocabulary!"

And when the applause and laughter broke out, my chest swelled with pride at my accomplishment!"

BRAVO! BRAVO! IT TALKS!

YES SIR, YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO, SUZY WAS A LITTLE SWAMP GIRL—JUST ONE STEP ABOVE THE ANIMAL KINGDOM! WHY, YOU COULD ALMOST MISTAKE HER FOR AN AVERAGE, NORMAL AMERICAN GIRL NOW!

HA, HA— YES, YOU COULD—EXCEPT FOR THOSE CLOTHES SHE'S WEARING!

IF THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED LADY SHOULD WEAR, WAYNE—I'M AFRAID ELOISE IS GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH YOU!

NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL DETRACT FROM MY TRIUMPH—AND RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO CELEBRATE WITH A COUPLE OF DRINKS!

THEY'VE HAD THEIR LAUGH! HE—HE'S NOT EVEN PAYING ATTENTION TO ME—NO ONE IS! I—I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THEM... HIDE SOME-PLACE!

NO ONE'S IN THIS ROOM—OH! ALL THOSE PRETTY DRESSES! AND THEY WERE LAUGHING AT MY CLOTHES! I—I WONDER—MAYBE IF I WORE ONE OF THESE—

GEE, IT SURE IS PRETTY! BUT MY HAIR—IT... IT'S NOT LIKE THE WAY OTHER WOMEN HAVE IT! BUT MAYBE I CAN FIX THAT, TOO!

THERE—THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! MAYBE—MAYBE HE'LL LOVE ME MORE NOW—EVEN KISS ME AGAIN! I'LL GO DOWN AND SHOW HIM RIGHT NOW!

"In the midst of a drink, I suddenly felt a hush come over the room, sensed an electrifying air of tenseness!"

WHO—WHO'S THAT? WHY, SHE'S LOVELY—BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!

"I looked toward the spot where all eyes were focused - and stood stunned with amazement at the radiant vision that met my astounded gaze!"

GOOD HEAVENS, IT... IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE! THAT'S **SUZY!**



"Before I could recover from my shock, all the other men in the room had swarmed about Suzy, surrounded her, each one trying to win her glance! And I - I knew I couldn't stay away, either!"

I - I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER -

OH, NO YOU DON'T, WAYNE YARDLEY! HOW DARE YOU LOOK AT HER THAT WAY? ARE YOU FORGETTING WE'RE ENGAGED?



I WON'T **STAND** FOR YOUR ACTING THAT WAY! IF-IF I EVER CATCH YOU LOOKING AT HER LIKE THAT -

HE - HE'S GOING IN THERE - WITH **HER!**



LOOK - IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A SCENE, LET'S AT LEAST GO INTO THE LIBRARY!

SO YOU DON'T WANT A SCENE EH? WHAT'S THE MATTER - AFRAID PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT THAT YOU - YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN THAT SUZY OF YOURS?

DON'T BE SILLY, ELOISE! YOU **KNOW** MY ONLY INTEREST IN HER IS TO WIN THAT BET BY CHANGING HER FROM THE SAVAGE SHE IS INTO AT LEAST A HALF-BAKED IMITATION OF A WOMAN! AS SOON AS I'VE COLLECTED, I'LL SEND HER BACK TO THE SWAMP-RATS SHE **BELONGS** WITH!



"I knew that my words were cruel, but there was a wild elation in my heart - for I realized that Eloise had finally shown **JEALOUSY**. Wasn't this what I sought - some indication of love from the woman who'd always held me at arm's length? There was mute surrender in her eyes as I clasped her to me -"

I COULDN'T **EVER** LOVE ANYONE ELSE BUT YOU, SWEET HEART!



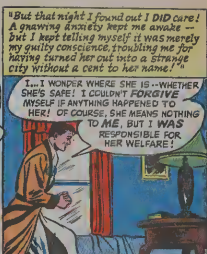
OH, YOU... YOU FAITHLESS, LYING -!

SUZY! YOU!
YES - ME - THE **SWAMP-RAT!** AND I... I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME THAT DAY YOU RAN AFTER ME AND **KISSED ME!** THAT WAS WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO BE THE KIND OF LADY I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO BE! BUT IT WAS ALL FOR A **BET** - YOU JUST WANTED ME TO BE A **LAUGHING-STOCK!**



I - I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT, THOUGH - ABOUT ME BEING A **SAVAGE!** HERE - I'LL **PROVE IT!**

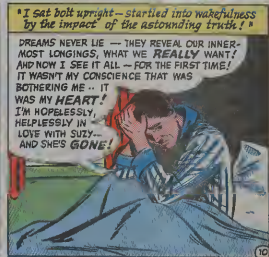
HEY - OW!



"The days passed -- and my burden of worry grew! I tried every possible means of finding her... the police, the bureau of missing persons, detectives, personal ads in the papers! But it was to no avail!"



"I couldn't get her out of my mind -- and found myself turning more and more to Eloise to help me forget Suzy! Then, one night, Eloise and I finally set the date for our marriage! This was what I had WANTED, I told myself! I'd be able to sleep -- that night -- to dream of my love --"



"Desperately, I redoubled my efforts to find Suzy—to find MY LOVE! Once again, failure—and I flung myself into one distraction after another in an attempt to drown the anguished loss in my heart! Then, at one of Eloise's parties one day..."

ALL RIGHT, QUIET, EVERYONE!
THE BLUE NETWORK IS SUPPOSED TO UNVEIL ITS GLAMOROUS NEW TELEVISION STAR TONIGHT! THEY'VE KEPT HER IDENTITY A SECRET—BUT I'LL BET IT'S SOME FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD STAR!



"Idly, I glanced at the television screen, grateful for anything that would divert me from my desolation! Then, as the screen lit up..."

AND HERE SHE IS, FOLKS—THE BLUE NETWORK'S GLAMOROUS, SENSATIONAL NEW TELEVISION PERSONALITY—MISS SUE MATTHEWS!



WHA—?
THAT—THAT'S
SUZY!

"A joyous elation gripped me—and an overwhelming sense of wonder! How had little Suzy, the daughter of the backwoods swamps, risen to such a height? But it was enough that I HAD FOUND HER!"

I'VE FOUND HER—
—AT LAST!
I'VE GOT TO GO TO HER—
TELL HER—

YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE KIND!
I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT—THAT CREATURE MANAGED IT—BUT YOU'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN AS LONG AS WE'RE ENGAGED!



"As I looked down at the smug, cold, loveless face of the girl I had once thought I loved, a feeling of utter contempt swept me! SHE was for a man like Gordon! If THAT WAS A LADY, I'D TAKE MY LITTLE SWAMP GIRL!"

WELL, IN THAT CASE, SISTER—WE'RE NOT ENGAGED!

OHHH!



"My heart soared on wings of love as I sped to the television studio! I headed straight for her dressing-room—and—"

SUZY—AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU!

OHHH—YOU! YOU MEAN—YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME?

NOT JUST LOOKING, BUT SEARCHING—YEARNING FOR YOU—FOR THE GIRL I LOVE! PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR WHATEVER PAIN I'VE CAUSED YOU! I WAS BLIND BEFORE, BUT THESE MONTHS OF AGONY HAVE TAUGHT ME—

—THAT YOU'RE THE GIRL I LOVE—AND WANT TO MARRY!



"I swept her headlong into my arms—hungrily found her lips! A soaring ecstasy flooded through me—the ecstasy of romance discovered—of longing fulfilled!"

"Then, suddenly, in that moment of my greatest happiness, the girl I loved struggled from my embrace! And in her eyes, there was—**HATRED!**"

DARLING --
WHAT IS IT -- ?

YOU -- YOU CONTEMPTIBLE **LIAR!**
SUE -- YOU LOVE ME -- **NOW** --
NOW THAT I'M **FAMOUS!** BUT
YOU DIDN'T LOVE THE LITTLE
SWAMP-RAT YOU LAUGHED AT
-- YOU **SCORNE** HER!
I **HATE** YOU FOR THAT --
SO GET OUT --
AND STAY
OUT OF MY
LIFE!

"It was then
that the world
collapsed
dizzily about
my ears -- and
the light of
joy and hope
fled from
my life!
Agonized
days
followed --
days
of
loneliness,
grief!"

I ... I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
SEEING HER! AND YET I CAN'T
EVEN GET **NEAR** HER -- THE
STUDIO'S THREATENED TO HAVE
ME ARRESTED IF I BOTHERED
HER AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO
THINK OF SOMETHING ...
ANYTHING!

"And then, the heaven-sent answer came --
in the person of Suzy's new publicity agent!"

I'M GONNA SYNDICATE HER WHOLE LIFE STORY -- HOW
A TALENT SCOUT PICKED HER UP LOST ON THE STREET
-- HOW THE **BLUE NETWORK** TRAINED HER, KEPT HER
COVERED UP SO'S THEY COULD SPRING HER AS A
SURPRISE! AND I'M FLYIN' SUE AND A CORPS OF
NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS DOWN TO HER HOME
IN FLORIDA -- FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT STORY OF HOW
SHE CAME UP FROM RAGS TO RICHES AND ROMANCE!
AND SINCE **YOU** DISCOVERED HER, I WANT YOU IN
ON THIS STUNT! BUT SHE'D KILL ME IF SHE KNEW
ABOUT IT!

I -- I'LL GO WITH YOU! AT
LEAST I'LL **SEE** HER
AGAIN!

"The press agent smuggled me on board the plane,
just before it took off, and Suzy didn't see me until
we were airborne! But when she **DID** see me --"

SUZY, I ... I ...

**YOU! DON'T EVEN
TALK TO ME -- JUST
GET OFF THIS
PLANE!**

WE'RE IN THE AIR --
HE CAN'T GET OFF!
I'LL JUST KEEP YOU TWO
SEPARATED UNTIL WE LAND -- MAYBE
YOU'LL BE CALM BY THEN!

"But the stormy scene that Suzy gave
went to was **NOTHING** compared to
the storm that seized and flung the
plane around hours later!"

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET
YOU TALK ME INTO FLYING YOU DOWN IN THIS
HURRICANE WEATHER -- BECAUSE WE'RE IN
ONE **RIGHT** HOW! AND WE'VE NO PLACE
TO LAND -- **WE'RE RIGHT OVER**
THE FLORIDA SWAMPS!

WELL, **DO**
SOMETHING --
WE'LL **CRASH!**

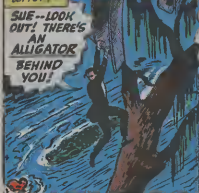
WE'RE BEING FORCED
DOWN! **HOLD TIGHT,
EVERYBODY!**

CRASH!

WE'RE SAFE -- THE DOOR'S
CAUGHT IN THE TREE TOPS! -- **OPEN SUZY --**
SUE, LOOK GRAB HOLD
OUT! OF SOME-
THING! OHN-
IT'S TOO LATE!

"Heart thudding with fear, I made my way to the yawning door! Holding on tightly, I looked down -- and choked with a cold, desperate terror!"

SUE--LOOK OUT! THERE'S AN ALLIGATOR BEHIND YOU!



"ONE MOMENT of paralyzing shock -- and then I knew what I would have to do!"

I DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS -- I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE! BUT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER! -- SO AT LEAST I CAN **DIE** FOR HER!



I... I CAN'T HOLD ON -- I'M LOSING MY GRIP! I'M DOOMED -- UNLESS -- **WAIT!** --

THAT HEAVY BRANCH FLOATING THERE --



"Desperately, I clutched the branch, waited until I saw the glitter in the beast's beady eyes as it sensed its imminent triumph!"

Then, when the foul, gaping mouth was but a few inches from my face..."

NOW! TRY THIS TOOTHPICK FOR SIZE -- AND I HOPE YOU CHOKE ON IT!



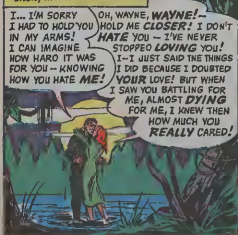
IT WORKED! BUT THAT THRASHING TAIL -- I'LL HAVE TO GET SUZY AWAY FROM IT!



"Then, moments later --"

I... I'M SORRY I HAD TO HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS! I CAN IMAGINE HOW HARD IT WAS FOR YOU -- KNOWING HOW YOU HATE **ME!**

OH, WAYNE, **WAYNE!** -- HOLD ME **CLOSER!** I DON'T **HATE** YOU -- I'VE NEVER STOPPED **LOVING** YOU! I -- I JUST SAID THE THINGS I DID BECAUSE I DOUBTED **YOUR LOVE!** BUT WHEN I SAW YOU **BATTLING** FOR ME, ALMOST **DYING** FOR ME, I KNEW THEN HOW MUCH YOU **REALLY CARED!**



OH, SWEETHEART -- **I LOVE YOU!**



"A strange story, reader, isn't it -- the tale of the true love we found in each other's arms! Yes, no one knows when love will strike -- or when someone will travel on that royal road **FROM RAGS TO ROMANCE!**"

THE END!
13

THE *Wishing* WELL

MARCIA COURTNEY had paid a weekly visit to the local wishing well ever since she was seventeen. Of course, she *didn't* have to ask for beauty, since she was already the most beautiful girl the town of Hartville had ever known. Wherever she went people stopped to stare at her and nudge one another, commenting on her loveliness.

By this time she was used to their stares, but what she could *not* get used to was the fact that she was *too* pretty. It was the strangest thing in the world the way the boys in town all seemed to be afraid of her, as if each of them felt that she was *too* beautiful for him, as if he could never be worthy of the loveliness that was hers.

And so, Marcia, the loveliest girl in town, was also the *loneliest*! When she had first blossomed out at the age of seventeen, and none of the boys dared to ask her for a date, the rumor soon went around that she was a snob, that she refused to go out with any of the local boys. And within a year, no one ever *thought* of asking her for a date!

Of course, the fact that she was the daughter of the town's only banker, and therefore the richest girl in town, didn't help things any. None of the boys felt that they were good enough for her, and people soon began to blame her snobbery on her wealth. Within a very short time, she became the most heartily disliked girl in town.

And so, week after week, Marcia paid her lonely visit to the wishing well on the outskirts of town, to ask not for beauty or wealth, which she already had, but for *love*, which she didn't!

Up until recently, she had always wished for "someone" who would love her—she'd never mentioned any name, because she'd never known whom *she* loved. But all that had changed with the coming of the young, handsome engineer, Jack Morris, who'd been hired by the town to repair its water system. It had been love at first sight on her part, and from the way he'd looked at her when they passed on the street, she felt in her heart that he'd fallen for her too.

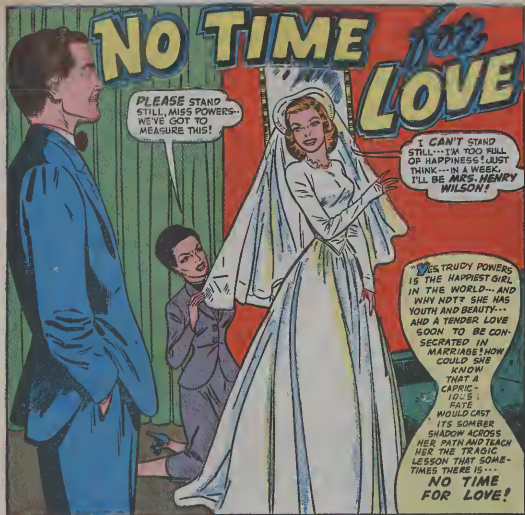
And so now she was at the wishing well to ask for a specific man for the first time in her life. Leaning over and closing her eyes, she whispered: "I wish, I wish with all my heart that Jack Morris loves me—and marries me!"

And then, as if the well itself were answering, a hollow voice spoke up from within its depths: "*Your wish will be granted!*"

Startled, Marcia opened her eyes and looked down to see Jack himself climbing up out of the well!

When he saw the look of utter embarrassment on her face, he went to her and took her in his arms. "Don't blush, darling. I wasn't spying on you—I was just down there to see if there was any water in that old well. But I'm glad I heard what you wished for—because I . . . I guess I fell in love with you at first sight!"

And after he kissed her, he said, "There is water down there, but I won't let the town take it away from us for its water supply. We'll build our house out here—and it'll always be our own wishing well—*where all our dreams will come true!*"



"YES, MY HEART OVERFLOWED WITH JOY AS I LOOKED INTO THE EYES OF MY HUSBAND-TO-BE..."

HENRY DARLING -- OH, I LOVE YOU SO! HOW DO I LOOK?

LIKE A DREAM! YOU LOOK SO LOVELY I CAN'T RESIST...



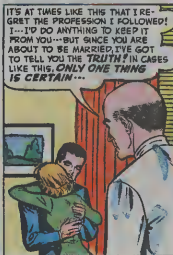
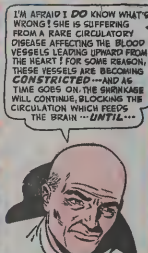
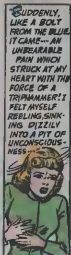
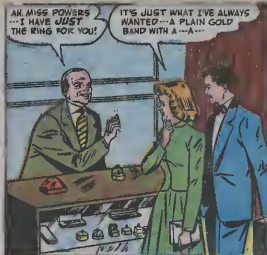
...THIS!



OH! I FORGOT WHERE WE WERE!

WIN, YOUR BLUSHING, HONEY! FORGET IT... AND GET INTO YOUR STREET CLOTHES! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE JEWELER'S AND PICK OUT THE RING!

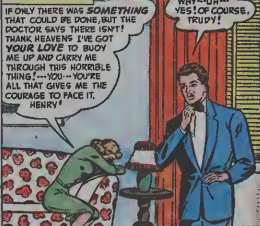




"**THIS WORDS**---THEY WERE A KNEEL OF DOOM! WHERE WAS MY HAPPINESS---**NOW?** WHAT HAD HE LEFT ME?"



"**IT SEEMED LIKE SOB-WRACKED AGES LATER**---BACK AT MY APARTMENT--"



"**THERE WAS** SOMETHING ABOUT THE TONE OF HIS VOICE---THE LOOK ON HIS FACE! NO---NO---IT **COULDN'T BE!** HE'D NEVER DESERT ME---NOT IN MY FATEFUL HOUR OF NEED!"



HENRY DARLING, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO STRANGELY? HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS AGAIN---KISS ME---TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME, THAT YOU'LL BE AT MY SIDE UNTIL---**THE END!**

TILL THE---**END?** WHY---UH---I---I---



"THE COLDNESS OF HIS LIPS, THE FRIGHTENED LOOK IN HIS EYES---ALL TOLD ME THE HORRIBLE TRUTH!"

NOW I UNDERSTAND---**WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID HAS KILLED YOUR LOVE FOR ME! YOU WANT TO GET AWAY FROM ME---NOW! THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT, HENRY?**

ER---IT ISN'T EXACTLY THAT, TRUDY! SURE I LOVED YOU---I STILL DO---BUT---BUT YOU CAN'T **BLAME** ME FOR HAVING LOOKED FORWARD TO OUR MARRIAGE AS A LONG LIFE OF HAPPINESS TO---**GETHER!** BUT---**NOW**---



NOW... WHAT, HENRY?

WELL, NOW THE **MARRIAGE** PART IS **OUT**, OF COURSE! AND AS FOR STAYING AT YOUR SIDE UNTIL IT---IT **HAPPENS**---WHY, IT WOULD BE ALMOST LIKE STAYING WITH A **CORPSE**! HEAVEN HELP ME, TRUDY, I **HAVEN'T GOT THE COURAGE TO FACE IT!**



GET OUT!! GET OUT OF HERE! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!



"**IN AN** AGONY OF HYSTERIA, I SANK TO THE FLOOR, MY BODY RACKED WITH SOBS! ALL MY DREAMS---MY HOPES---MY LIFE ITSELF---**WERE CRASHING AROUND ME!**"



IT DON'T
KNOW HOW
LONG I LAY
THERE BROKEN,
MISERABLE...
POURING OUT
THE AGONY OF
MY GRIEF IN
BITTER TEARS!
BUT GRADUALLY,
OUT OF THE
VERY DEPTHS
OF MY SOUL, I
GATHERED THE
SHREDS OF A
COURAGE WHICH
HENRY HAD NOT
POSSESSED...

HE'S... A COWARD... BUT I MUSTN'T
BLAME HIM TOO MUCH! NO MAN
WANTS TO BE A PARTNER TO
DEATH! BUT... BUT I MUSTN'T
GIVE IN! THE ONLY WAY I CAN
FIGHT BACK IS TO LIVE MY LIFE
THROUGH WITH COURAGE... TO
GET ALL THE HAPPINESS I CAN
OUT OF MY LAST DAYS!



"AND SO, NEXT DAY, CLINGING TO MY NEW-FOUND DETERMINATION TO LIVE MY LIFE THROUGH COURAGEOUSLY..."

TRA AGENCY

HAWAII... I WONDER...



THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS--WHY, THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL, MISS! THEY'RE ENCHANTING! ROMANTIC! TAKE A TIP FROM ME AND GO THERE! YOU'LL REMEMBER THEN THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

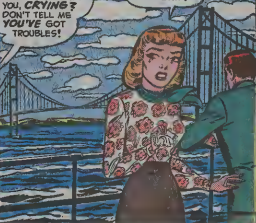
THE REST OF... WELL, WHY NOT? OKAY! BOOK ME FOR AN IMMEDIATE PASSAGE TO HAWAII, PLEASE!

AS THE BEAUTIFUL SKY-LINE OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE GLITTERING MAJESTY OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, SLIPPED INTO THE DISTANCE, I WONDERED IF I WOULD EVER SEE THEM AGAIN OR IF... BUT SUDDENLY, A STRANGE VOICE BROKE INTO MY THOUGHTS...



WELL, WELL... A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU, CRYING? DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GOT TROUBLES!

WHAT? ...WHO? ...OHH!



"WHERE HE STOOD... AND THERE WAS SOMETHING PERCEPTIVE, PENETRATING ABOUT HIS GLANCE! COULD HE LOOK DOWN INTO THE CORE OF MY BEING... SPY OUT THE DARK SHADOW LURKING IN MY HEART?"

I'M ERIC BREWSTER! WHO ARE YOU?

I'M... I'M... OH, PLEASE EXCUSE ME! I... I'VE GOT TO UNPACK!

"NEXT DAY I FLUNG MYSELF INTO THE MAD ROUNDO OF SHIPBOARD ACTIVITIES, TRYING FRANTICALLY TO FORGET THE MONSTROUS SECRET THAT GNAWED AT MY VITALS... AS WELL AS MY DISTURBING MEETING WITH ERIC BREWSTER!"



"BUT I COULD FORGET ONLY MOMENTARILY--FOR WHENEVER I WAS ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS, THE SHADOW OF FEAR SETTLED UPON ME LIKE A BLACK SNUD!"



NO! NO!

"THOSE NIGHTMARES... OF DEATH! I WALKED THE DECKS TO ESCAPE THEM... AND ONE NIGHT..."



YOU AREN'T SUCCEEDING. ARE YOU?

WHAT?



IT'S YOU! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ...NOT SUCCEEDING IN WHAT?

IN FORGETTING WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM!



"AGAIN I HAD THAT STRANGE FEELING IN HIS PRESENCE... AS IF MY DISGUISE HAD SUDDENLY BEEN SNATCHED FROM ME, EXPOSING THE UGLY SECRET I HAD TRIED TO CONCEAL!"

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT I... I'M RUNNING AWAY FROM ANYTHING?

YOU SEE, I'VE GOT A VERY RUDE HABIT! I STUDY PEOPLE... THEIR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, THEIR EYES, THEIR VOICES! AND I NOTICED THAT YOU LIVE IN TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS! ONE IS THE GAY, CARE FREE WORLD OF THE TOURIST! BUT THE OTHER'S YOUR OWN SECRET, PRIVATE WORLD... A WORLD OF HEART-BREAK!

"I WANTED TO RUN... TO HIDE! BUT SOMETHING STOPPED ME! PERHAPS IT WAS THAT GENTLE, UNDERSTANDING AIR OF HIS..."

YOU KNOW, YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME YET!

I'M... TRUDY POWERS! IF YOU DON'T MIND... IT'S LATE, MR. BREWSTER! I'D BETTER SAY... GOODNIGHT!



NEXT EVENING AFTER DINNER I HAD RETURNED TO MY CABIN... WHEN...

WHO'S THERE?

ME... ERIC! C'MON, I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO THE SHIP'S BALL!

RAP! RAP!



BUT, MR. BREWSTER... WE DON'T HAVE A DATE TO GO TO THE BALL TOGETHER! I...

WE HAVE NOW, TRUDY! AND PLEASE FORGET THAT MISTER BUSINESS!... C'MON, TIME'S A-WASTING... THERE'S DANCING TO BE DONE!



"HE WAS BRASH, SELF-ASSURED, GAY... AND CHARMING, DANCING WITH HIM WAS LIKE FLOATING ON A CLOUD!"

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, TRUDY, IS YOUR ZEST FOR LIFE! YOU'RE NOT LIKE THESE OVERSTUFFED, OVER-RICH CHARACTERS RUNNING AROUND THE BALL-ROOM IN A MAD PURSUIT OF PLEASURE!... WHY THEY'RE REALLY BORED WITH LIFE!

BORED WITH LIFE? IS IT POSSIBLE?



IT WAS A NIGHT OF ENCHANTMENT... FOR ERIC'S WINNING PRESENCE HELPED ME FORGET THE AWFUL SHADOW WHICH HUNG OVER ME! BUT THEN---



A TOAST TO YOU, TRUDY! MAY YOU HAVE A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE AND... WHAT'S WRONG, TRUDY? WHY DID YOU TURN SO PALE?



I... I'M SUDDENLY VERY TIRED! WILL YOU... TAKE ME BACK TO MY STATE-ROOM?



I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT--WEEPING FOR THE NIGHT-- HAVE BEEN! BUT THE NEXT MORNING-- THERE WAS ERIC AGAIN, ACTING AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED! WE SAW MUCH OF EACH OTHER FROM THEN ON-- UNTIL THAT LAST FATEFUL NIGHT BEFORE WE REACHED HAWAII!--



TRUDY--THERE'S SOMETHING... I MEAN, I'VE WANTED TO--WELL, TELL YOU SOMETHING!



WHY--OF COURSE ERIC! WHAT IS IT?



BEFORE I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED, ERIC HAD PULLED ME TO HIM--HIS LIPS CRUSHED MINE, HIS ARMS HELD ME CLOSE TO HIS HEART! HIS EMBRACE SEEMED TO MELT THE COLD FINGERS OF FEAR THAT HAD GRIPPED ME SO LONG--BUT I KNEW THAT I COULDN'T AFFORD THE LUXURY OF ROMANCE! AGAINST THE DICTATES OF MY PULSING HEART, I KNEW THAT I MUST NOT SEE ERIC AGAIN! I KNEW THAT I HAD NO TIME FOR LOVE!

OH, TRUDY DARLING, I'M SO GLAD I'VE FOUND YOU--WE'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME TOGETHER IN HAWAII! OH, BY THE WAY, YOU DIDN'T SAY WHERE YOU'D BE STOPPING THERE--?

I'LL BE AT THE... SILVER CRESCENT HOTEL!

I MUSTN'T TELL HIM THAT I'LL REALLY BE AT THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN! --THIS IS GOODBYE, ERIC DEAR!



"IN HAWAII, I TRIED NOT TO ALLOW MYSELF A MOMENT TO THINK! I PLUNGED INTO A MAD WHIRL OF ACTIVITY--DATED MANY MEN! BUT IT WAS NO USE! THEY WEREN'T ERIC!"

GOSH, YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST GIRL I'VE EVER KNOWN! HEY--YOU AREN'T EVEN LISTENING!

ER--I BEG YOU PARDON?



"ERIC... ERIC... HIS NAME BEAT A CONSTANT REFRAIN IN MY HEART! WHERE WAS HE--WHAT WAS HE DOING NOW? HAD HE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ME? THE ANSWER CAME IN A STRANGE PLACE-- THE SURF AT WAIKIKI!--"

OUCH! SOME-THING'S GRABBED MY FOOT!





OHHH!



ERIC! IT'S YOU!

UH-HUH! AND YOU EARNED THAT DUCKING, TRUDY POWERS, FOR FIBBING TO ME ABOUT WHERE YOU'RE STAYING! I'VE COMBED THIS ISLAND HIGH AND LOW FOR YOU!



"ONCE AGAIN REASON WARNED 'SEND HIM AWAY! HE'S NOT FOR YOU!' BUT RESOLUTION WAVERED BEFORE HIS VOICE, HIS TOUCH! AND SO IT WAS THAT ERIC BECAME MY CONSTANT, INSEPARABLE COMPANION..."

OH, IT'S WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT, ERIC?

SO ARE YOU, TRUDY!

"MY HEART THROBBED WITH THE MAGIC AND ALLURE OF THIS ISLAND PARADISE! I SAW IT ALL--THRILLED TO IT..."

THERE'S THE MOANA LUA VOLCANO ---THE OLD GAL IS STILL ACTIVE, YOU KNOW!--IN FACT, SHE'S RUMBLING RIGHT NOW, SPITTING GASES AND THROWING UP ROCKS! SHE'LL ERUPT SOON---NOBODY KNOWS WHEN!

IT'S---IT'S GOT A STRANGE, HYPNOTIC SORT OF FASCINATION FOR ME! IF EVER A CRISIS COMES IN MY LIFE, SOMEHOW I FEEL I WOULD LIKE TO BE ---HERE!



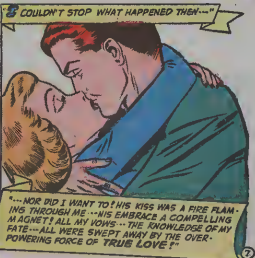
FORGET IT, TRUDY--AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS! THAT CRATER'S JUST MARKING TIME, AND THEN---DEATH!

THE VOLCANO-- AND ME---WE'RE BOTH MARKING TIME!

"OF ALL THE BEAUTIFUL SCENES IN HAWAII, THE MOST BREATHTAKING WAS THE PALLI PASS, ARCHING HIGH OVER THE BLUE PACIFIC! SOMETHING ABOUT THE PLACE SUGGESTED LOVE, BUT THIS WASN'T FOR ME! WHY WAS MY BLOOD PULSING SO FIERCELY? I FELT ERIC'S ARM SLIP ABOUT ME---WHY DIDN'T I STOP HIM?"

THIS LOVELY SPOT--AND YOU, TRUDY! YOU BELONG HERE--- WITH ME---FOR ALWAYS!

OH, ERIC--- PLEASE ---PLEASE DON'T---



"I COULDN'T STOP WHAT HAPPENED THEN--"

"---NOR DID I WANT TO! HIS KISS WAS A FIRE FLAMING THROUGH ME---HIS EMBRACE A COMPELLING MAGNET! ALL MY VOWS---THE KNOWLEDGE OF MY FATE---ALL WERE SWEEPED AWAY BY THE OVERPOWERING FORCE OF TRUE LOVE!"

"OVER THE POUNDING OF MY HEART, I HEARD HIS WHISPERED WORDS--WORDS I CRAVED TO HEAR! BUT WORDS I KNEW I HAD NO RIGHT TO HEAR!"

OH, TRUDY DARLING
... I LOVE YOU!
I WANT TO---
MARRY YOU!

NO! NO!
YOU MUSTN'T
SAY THAT!
PLEASE, ERIC
TAKE ME HOME
--- NOW!



"THAT NIGHT I MADE MY FATEFUL, SOUL-SEARING DECISION--AND NEXT DAY--"

THIS IS GOODBYE--- I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! I KNOW IT WILL HURT YOU, BUT I MUST TELL YOU--I'M SUFFERING FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE WHICH WILL KILL ME WITHIN A YEAR! BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO SUFFER NEEDLESSLY--GO PLEASE TRY TO FORGET ME!

AND THERE'S
NO USE TRYING
TO FIND ME!



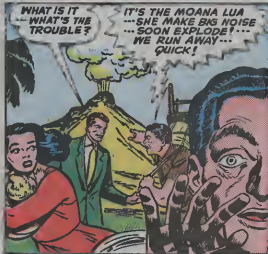
FRANTIC AND DISTRAUGHT, ERIC BREWSTER SEARCHED FOR TRUDY... EVERYWHERE... FRUITLESSLY!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HER! HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT SHE COULD DO... IN HER STATE OF MIND!... SAY... ALL THAT COMMOTION!... I WONDER WHAT'S UP!



WHAT IS IT
--- WHAT'S THE
TROUBLE?

IT'S THE MOANA LUA
--- SHE MAKE BIG NOISE
--- SOON EXPLODE!---
WE RUN AWAY---
QUICK!



THE MOANA LUA...
OF COURSE! THAT'S
WHERE SHE IS! I'VE GOT
TO GET THERE--- IN
TIME!

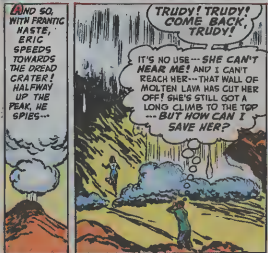
IF EVER A CRISIS
COMES IN MY LIFE,
I'D LIKE TO BE---
HERE!



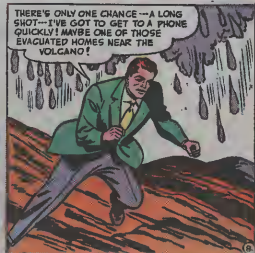
AND SO,
WITH FRANTIC
HASTE,
ERIC
SPEEDS
TOWARDS
THE DREAD
CRATER!
HALFWAY
UP THE
PEAK, HE
SPIES---

TRUDY! TRUDY!
COME BACK,
TRUDY!

IT'S NO USE--- SHE CAN'T
HEAR ME! AND I CAN'T
REACH HER--- THAT WALL OF
MOLTEN LAVA HAS CUT HER
OFF! SHE'S STILL GOT A
LONG CLIMB TO THE TOP
--- BUT HOW CAN I
SAVE HER?

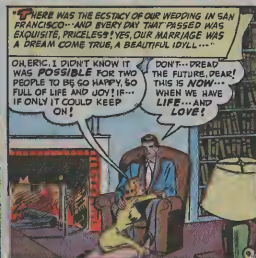


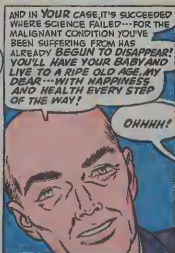
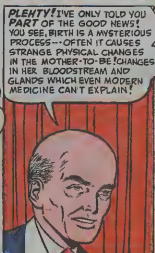
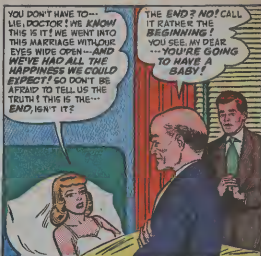
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE--- A LONG
SHOT--- I'VE GOT TO GET TO A PHONE
QUICKLY! MAYBE ONE OF THOSE
EVACUATED HOMES NEAR THE
VOLCANO!



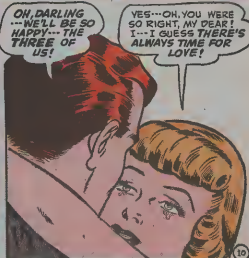


**"HOW DIFFER-
ENT FROM THE
WORDS HENRY
HAD USED!
SUDDENLY THE
SUN SEEMED
TO SHINE
AGAIN---AND
A WAVE OF
PUREST HAPPINESS
FLOODED TO THE
DEPTHS OF MY
BEING. I PULLED
ERIC'S DEAR
FACE TO MINE...
POURED THE FULL
MEASURE OF MY
LOVE INTO A
SEARING KISS! YES,
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE WE
COULD BELONG
TO EACH
OTHER!"**

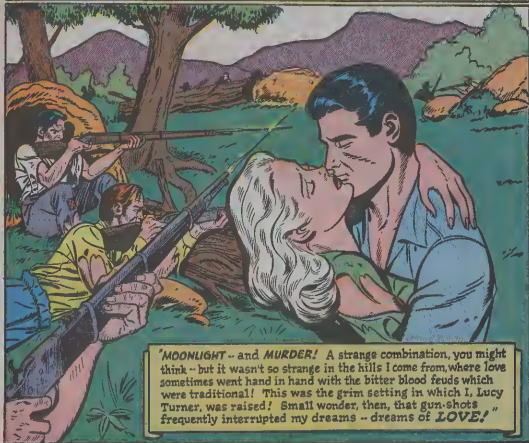




"MAGIC
WORDS--STRIK-
ING OFF THE
SHACKLES OF DEATH
AND FEAR THAT
HAD HELD ME
PRISONER--GRANT-
ING INSTEAD THE
PRECIOUS BOON OF
LIFE ITSELF! I
KNEW TEARS NOW--
BUT THEY WERE
TEARS OF JOY!
TENDERLY, GRATE-
FULLY, ERIC'S LIPS
CARRESSED MINE--
WITH THE GOLDEN
PROMISE OF THE
LONG YEARS
AHEAD--"



Embraceable Enemy



"MOONLIGHT -- and MURDER! A strange combination, you might think -- but it wasn't so strange in the hills I come from, where love sometimes went hand in hand with the bitter blood feuds which were traditional! This was the grim setting in which I, Lucy Turner, was raised! Small wonder, then, that gun-shots frequently interrupted my dreams -- dreams of LOVE!"

"I'D NEVER THOUGHT MUCH OF ROMANCE! HOW COULD I, AMONG SCENES LIKE THIS?"



QUICK, DOUSE THE LIGHT! THEM HOUNDS ARE BAYIN' AT SOMEONE PROWLIN' AROUND! THE KELLEYS MAY BE OUT THERE!

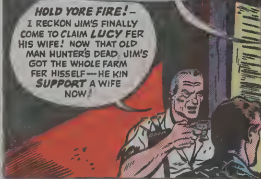
I'LL GIT THE GUNS!

AOUUUUUU!
ARR-RRRAUUU!

THEY WERE AT IT AGAIN -- THE GENERATIONS-OLD FEUD BETWEEN THE TURNER AND THE KELLEY CLANS THAT HAD BEEN SPILLING BLOOD ON THE KENTUCKY HILLS AS FAR BACK AS I COULD REMEMBER!"

CALL OFF YORE DOGS -- IT'S ME -- JIM HUNTER!

HOLD YORE FIRE! -- I RECKON JIM'S FINALLY COME TO CLAIM LUCY FER HIS WIFE! NOW THAT OLD MAN HUNTER'S DEAD, JIM'S GOT THE WHOLE FARM FER HISSELF -- HE KIN SUPPORT A WIFE NOW!



"JIM TURNER --- THE NAME HAD ALWAYS SENT A SHIVER OF ANTICIPATION THROUGH ME, EVER SINCE I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT JIM AND I HAD BEEN BETROTHED IN INFANCY BY OUR FAMILIES! I WAS SHY, FRIGHTENED, AS I LOOKED AT THE MAN WHO WAS TO BE MY --- **HUSBAND!**"

WELL, LUCY, YUH READY TO MAKE THE TRIP TO THE PARSON? I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TILL I COULD GET THE FARM, SO YUH WOULDN'T MARRY A NO-ACCOUNT!

I... I GUESS I'M READY... JIM!

WHY DON'T YUH ASK HER IF SHE **WANTS** TO MARRY YUH? I DON'T SET MUCH STORE ON **TELLIN'** A GAL WHO SHE **HAS** TO MARRY!



"HIS WORDS FILLED ME WITH A COLD, FOREBODING FEAR! MY HEART FOUNDING AT HIS CLOSENESS, I TRIED TO WORK UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO TELL HIM HOW I **HATED** THIS WARFARE -- "

LUCY, YUH'RE THE PRETTIEST BRIDE A MAN COULD EVER ASK FER!

JIM, I... I NEVER DARED TALK THIS WAY TO MY FAMILY -- BUT MAYBE **YOU** CAN HELP STOP THIS SENSELESS FEUD! YOU... YOU MIGHT EVEN BE **KILLED** --- JUST LIKE MY TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND MY MOTHER! THERE'S NO **SENSE** TO ALL THIS KILLING --- THERE'S NO END TO IT!



DON'T YOU SEE, JIM? I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE THE REST OF MY FAMILY --- AND YOU --- **SHOT DOWN!** IT'S GOT TO STOP... IT'S GOT TO!

WE'RE NOT GONNA GET KILLED --- THE **KELLEYS** ARE! YUH'RE GETTIN' ALL EXCITED ABOUT HOTIN'! --- HERE, MEBBE **THIS'LL** SETTLE YUH DOWN!



SHET UP, GEORGE! SURE LUCY WANTS TO MARRY HIM --- AIN'T HE THE SON O' THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD? --- BUT SAY, JIM, INSTEAD O' KUSHIN' TO THE PARSON, HOW ABOUT STAYIN' HERE A WEEK OR TWO? I HEAR TELL YUH'RE A MIGHTY FINE SHOT --- WE KIN **USE YUH IN OUR FEUD WITH THEM **KELLEY** DOGS!**

I'D BE **GLAD** TO GET IN SOME SHOOTIN', SEEN' AS THEY'LL BE MY **ENEMIES** TOO WHEN I MARRY INTO THE **TURNERS!**



BUT YUH'RE A KENTUCKY GAL, LUCY --- FEUDIN' IS IN OUR **BLOOD!** THE **KELLEYS** ARE YORE **ENEMIES** --- AN THEY'RE GONNA BE MINE HOW TOO! HOW CAN YUH EVEN **TALK** THAT WAY?

BECAUSE I **AM** A KENTUCKY GIRL --- BECAUSE I **LOVE** THIS LAND, THESE **HILLS!** THAT'S WHY I WANT TO END THE FIGHTING --- SO THAT THERE'LL BE SOMEONE LEFT **ALIVE** ON THE **LAND!**



"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER BEEN KISSED! A STRANGE, WARM FIRE SPREAD THROUGH MY BLOOD, SET MY HEART TO BEATING WILDLY -- LONGINGLY! IT COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING --- **THIS WAS LOVE!**"

ON, JIM... DARLING!



"I FORGOT MY FEARS -- FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT HIS STRONG, CHERISHED NEARNESS! HE WAS MY MAN, MY KING--AND WHAT-
EVER HE BELIEVED, I BELIEVED!"

SWEETHEART, LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE FEUD! THE ONLY THING THAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT -- **WE'RE TOGETHER!**



"DAYS OF ENCHANTMENT FOLLOWED-- DAYS FILLED WITH HAPPY PREPARATIONS FOR MY WEDDING! AND THEN, WHILE I WAS PICKING BERRIES -- **IT HAPPENED!**"

THAT---THAT MUST BE A **KELLEY!** I... I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE HE SEES ME!



OHHH!

WHAT--- YOU!



"IT WAS A KELLEY -- BUT IT WAS **ADAM KELLEY**, THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHOM I USED TO MEET IN SECRET -- BEFORE EITHER OF US EVER UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF 'FEUD'! FOND MEMORIES OF THE JOYFUL HOURS WE'D SPENT PLAYING TOGETHER SWEEP OVER ME -- UNTIL I FORCIBLY REMINDED MYSELF THAT HE WAS STILL A **KELLEY!**"

IT... IT'S REALLY YOU, ADAM! I... I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS! ARE YOU OUT HERE HUNTING -- **TURNERS?**

HARDLY, LUCY -- HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SO SOON HOW WE BOTH USED TO LAUGH AT OUR FAMILIES -- HOW WE USED TO FOOL THEM WITH ALL OUR SECRET MEETINGS? WELL, NOW THAT I'M BACK FROM AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, I'VE STOPPED LAUGHING AT THE FEUD -- AND STARTED **HATING** IT!

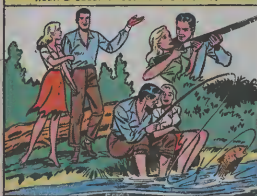


I... I GUESS WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON THEN -- BECAUSE I HATE THIS STUPID KILLING, TOO!

I **KNEW** YOU WOULD! HOW ABOUT SEEING WHAT **ELSE** WE HAVE IN COMMON -- BY MEETING ME IN THE OLD HOLLOW THIS AFTERNOON, THE WAY WE USED TO?



"PROMISED TO ANOTHER, I WANTED TO REFUSE -- BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THAT OLD CHILDHOOD BOND BETWEEN US! AND NOW THERE WAS SOMETHING **NEW** -- AN ALLURE, A FASCINATION WHICH DREW ME IRRESISTIBLY TOWARD MEETING HIM, EVERY HOUR I COULD POSSIBLY STEAL AWAY!"



"BUT MY FREQUENT ABSENCES SOON BEGAN TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS --"

WHERE YUH OFF TO **THIS** TIME, LUCY? SEEMS TO ME YUH'RE **ALWAYS** OFF PICKIN' STRAWBERRIES SOMEWHERE, AH! YET YUH NEVER COME BACK WITH ANY!

OH, THE... THE BUSHES HAVE ALMOST BEEN PICKED CLEAN BY NOW! I HAVE TO KEEP GOING DEEPER INTO THE WOODS EACH TIME!



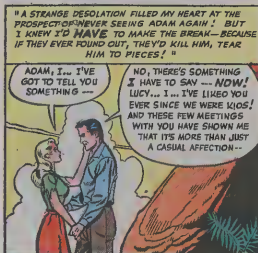


HAW! I BET
JIM THINKS YUH'RE
GOIN' TO VISIT THE
KELLEYS!
HAW-HAW!

HMMM!...WAL,
I RECKON I CAN'T
GIVE THE GAL ANY
ORDERS TO STAY
AROUND THE HOUSE---
YET! BUT YUH
CAN'T STOP ME FROM
THINKIN' -- AN'
WONDERIN'!



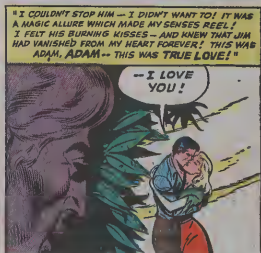
I CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE THEM
SUSPICIOUS! I'LL HAVE TO TELL
ADAM I CAN'T MEET
HIM ANYMORE!



"A STRANGE DESOLATION FILLED MY HEART AT THE
PROSPECT OF NEVER SEEING ADAM AGAIN! BUT
I KNEW I'D HAVE TO MAKE THE BREAK--BECAUSE
IF THEY EVER FOUND OUT, THEY'D KILL HIM, TEAR
HIM TO PIECES!"

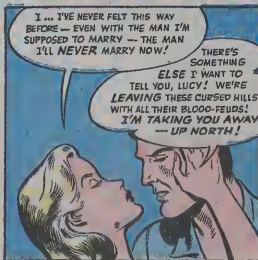
ADAM, I... I'VE
GOT TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING ---

NO, THERE'S SOMETHING
I HAVE TO SAY --- **NOW!**
LUCY... I... I'VE LIKED YOU
EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS!
AND THESE FEW MEETINGS
WITH YOU HAVE SHOWN ME
THAT IT'S MORE THAN JUST
A CASUAL AFFECTION--



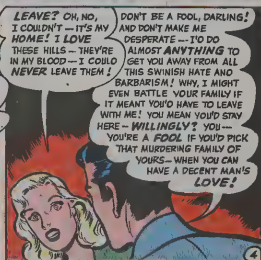
"I COULDN'T STOP HIM -- I DIDN'T WANT TO! IT WAS
A MAGIC ALLURE WHICH MADE MY SENSES REEL!
I FELT HIS BURNING KISSES-- AND KNEW THAT JIM
HAD VANISHED FROM MY HEART FOREVER! THIS WAS
ADAM, ADAM-- THIS WAS **TRUE LOVE!**"

-- I LOVE
YOU!



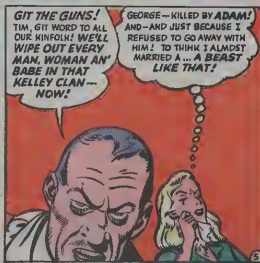
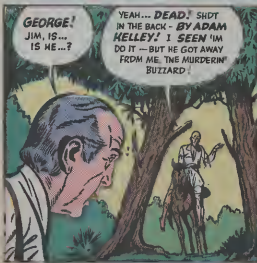
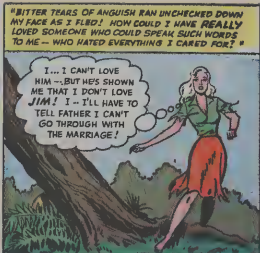
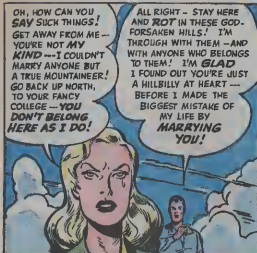
I... I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY
BEFORE -- EVEN WITH THE MAN I'M
SUPPOSED TO MARRY -- THE MAN
I'LL NEVER MARRY NOW!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE I WANT
TO TELL YOU, LUCY! WE'RE
LEAVING THESE CURSED HILLS,
WITH ALL THEIR BLOOD-FEUDS!
I'M TAKING YOU AWAY
-- UP NORTH!

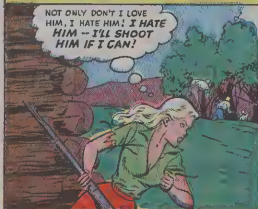


LEAVE? OH, NO,
I COULDN'T -- IT'S MY
HOME! I LOVE
THESE HILLS -- THEY'RE
IN MY BLOOD -- I COULD
NEVER LEAVE THEM!

DON'T BE A FOOL, DARLING!
AND DON'T MAKE ME
DESPERATE -- I'D DO
ALMOST ANYTHING TO
GET YOU AWAY FROM ALL
THIS SWINISH HATE AND
BARBARISM! WHY, I MIGHT
EVEN BATTLE YOUR FAMILY IF
IT MEANT YOU'D HAVE TO LEAVE
WITH ME! YOU MEAN YOU'D STAY
HERE -- **WILLINGLY?** YOU--
YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU'D PICK
THAT MURDERING FAMILY OF
YOURS-- WHEN YOU CAN
HAVE A DECENT MAN'S
LOVE!



"A FEELING OF UTTER HORROR SWEEPED OVER ME AT THE THOUGHT OF A MAN WHO COULD SO COLD-BLOODEDLY MURDER SOMEONE SO DEAR TO ME AS MY OWN BROTHER! AND THEN THE HORROR CHANGED TO ANGER, TO A **BURNING RAGE!**"



"AN HOUR LATER..."



"BY THE TIME I MADE MY WAY TO THE KELLEY FARM, HEART STILL HOT WITH RAGE, I FOUND THAT BOTH SIDES HAD ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES! THIS WAS MY PLACE --- AT THE SIDE OF MY KINFOLK, BATTLING AGAINST HATED ENEMIES --- INCLUDING THE MOST DESPISED OF THEM ALL, HE WHO HAD SO FALSELY LAID SIEGE TO MY HEART!"

SO, YUH DECIDED TO JOIN IN, EH? I KINDA FIGGERED YUH'D CHANGE YORE MIND ABOUT THE FEUD--- AN' ABOUT THE KELLEYS!

YOU--YOU WERE RIGHT, JIM! BUT THIS ISN'T ANY TIME FOR TALK! I'M GOING TO LET MY GUN SPEAK FOR ME!

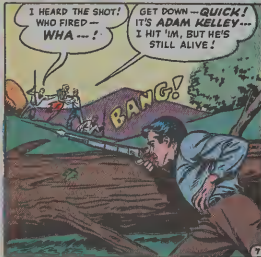
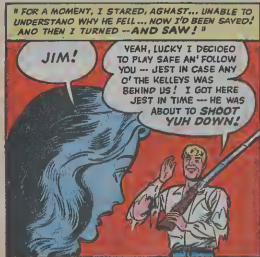
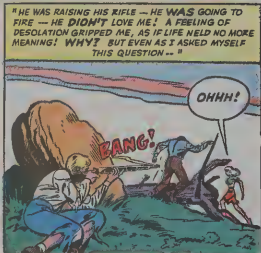
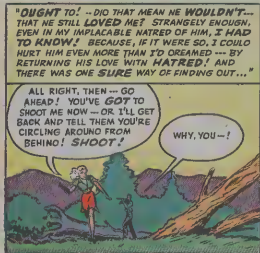
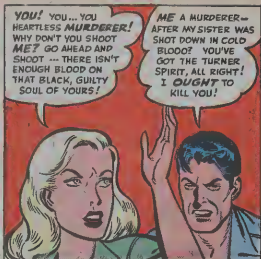


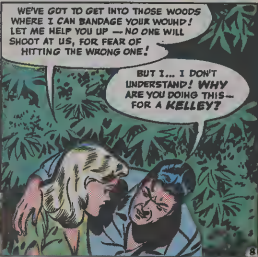
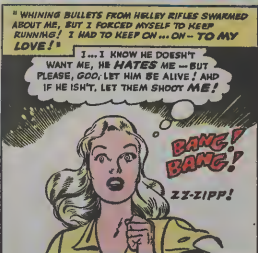
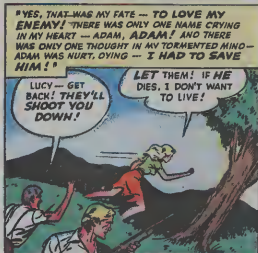
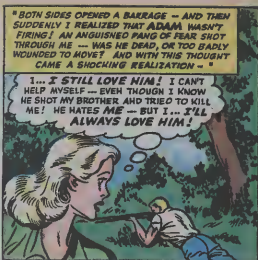
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY NABBIN' THEM FROM THE REAR! I'LL GO OUT AHEAD AND SCOUT! THE REST OF YOU CIRCLE AROUND THEIR LINES IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES --- EXCEPT FOR TWO OF YOU WHO'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP FIRING SO THEY DON'T GET SUSPICIOUS!

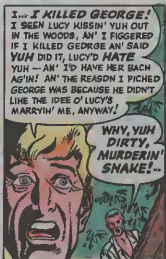
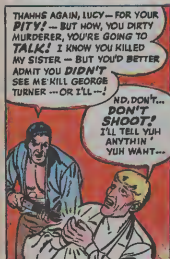
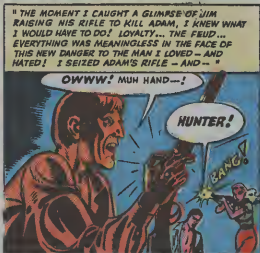
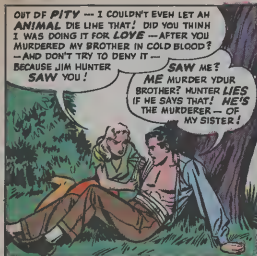


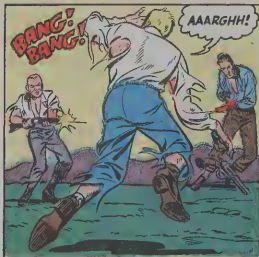
WE NEED MORE BULLETS! LUCY, GO BACK TO THE HOUSE AN' GET SOME --- I CAN'T SPARE A MAN! BUT BE CAREFUL --- SOME OF THE KELLEYS MAY BE OUT IN THE WOODS!





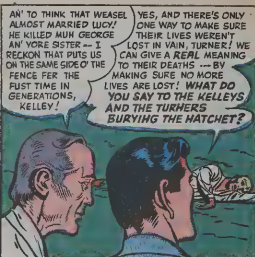






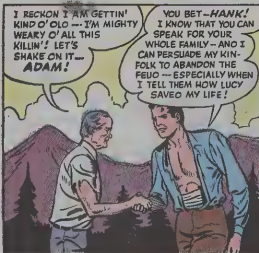
BANG! BANG!

AAARGHH!



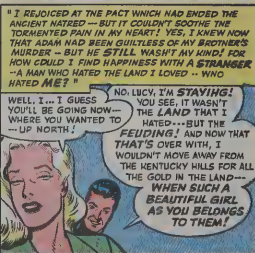
AN' TO THINK THAT WEASEL
ALMOST MARRIED LUCY!
HE KILLED MUH GEORGE
AN' YORE SISTER -- I
RECKON THAT PUTS US
ON THE SAME SIDE O' THE
FENCE FER THE
FIRST TIME IN
GENERATIONS,
KELLEY!

YES, AND THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE
THEIR LIVES WEREN'T
LOST IN VAIN, TURNER! WE
CAN GIVE A REAL MEANING
TO THEIR DEATHS -- BY
MAKING SURE NO MORE
LIVES ARE LOST! **WHAT DO
YOU SAY TO THE KELLEYS
AND THE TURKERS
BURYING THE HATCHET?**



I RECKON I AM GETTIN'
KIND O' OLO -- I'M MIGHTY
WEARY O' ALL THIS
KILLIN'! LET'S
SHAKE ON IT--
ADAM!

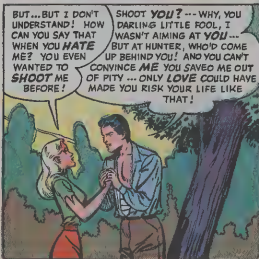
YOU BET--**HANK!**
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN
SPEAK FOR YOUR
WHOLE FAMILY-- AND I
CAN PERSUADE MY KIN-
FOLK TO ABANDON THE
FEUD -- ESPECIALLY WHEN
I TELL THEM HOW LUCY
SAVED MY LIFE!



"I REJOICED AT THE PACT WHICH HAD ENDED THE
ANCIENT NATRED -- BUT IT COULDN'T SOOTHE THE
TORMENTED PAIN IN MY HEART! YES, I KNEW NOW
THAT ADAM HAD BEEN GUILTLESS OF MY BROTNER'S
MURDER -- BUT HE STILL WASN'T MY KIND! FOR
HOW COULD I FIND HAPPINESS WITH A STRANGER
-- A MAN WHO HATED THE LAND I LOVED -- WHO
HATED ME?"

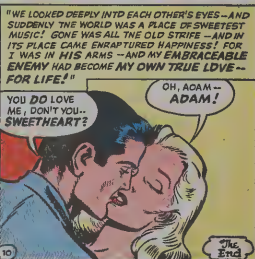
WELL, I... I GUESS
YOU'LL BE GOING NOW--
WHERE YOU WANTED TO
-- UP NORTH!

NO, LUCY, I'M **STAYING!**
YOU SEE, IT WASN'T
THE **LAND** THAT I
HATED-- BUT THE
FEUDING! AND NOW THAT
THAT'S OVER WITH, I
WOULDN'T MOVE AWAY FROM
THE KENTUCKY HILLS FOR ALL
THE GOLD IN THE LAND--
WHEN SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL GIRL
AS YOU BELONGS
TO THEM!



BUT... BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND! HOW
CAN YOU SAY THAT
WHEN YOU **HATE**
ME? YOU EVEN
WANTED TO
SHOOT ME
BEFORE!

SHOOT YOU? -- WHY, YOU
DARLING LITTLE FOOL, I
WASN'T AIMING AT **YOU**--
BUT AT HUNTER, WHO'D COME
UP BEHIND YOU! AND YOU CAN'T
CONVINCE **ME** YOU SAVED ME OUT
OF PITY -- ONLY **LOVE** COULD HAVE
MADE YOU RISK YOUR LIFE LIKE
THAT!



"WE LOOKED DEEPLY INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES--AND
SUDDENLY THE WORLD WAS A PLACE OF SWEETEST
MUSIC! GONE WAS ALL THE OLD STRIFE -- AND IN
ITS PLACE CAME ENRAPTURED HAPPINESS! FOR
I WAS IN HIS ARMS -- AND MY EMBRACEABLE
ENEMY HAD BECOME MY OWN TRUE LOVE--
FOR LIFE!"

YOU **DO** LOVE
ME, DON'T YOU--
SWEETHEART?

OH, ADAM--
ADAM!

HOW HE PROPOSED

THE GREATEST THRILL IN A GIRL'S LIFE IS THE MOMENT WHEN THE MAN SHE'S IN LOVE WITH ASKS HER TO MARRY HIM! YET A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON JUST HOW THE QUESTION IS POPPED, FOR A MAN IS JUDGED BY THE CRUDITY OR ENCHANTMENT OF HIS PROPOSAL! AND HERE, IN HER OWN WORDS, IS HOW HE PROPOSED... TO AGNES WALKER, OF SAN DIEGO!

JERRY WAS THE BOY NEXT DOOR... AND IT SEEMED AS IF I'D ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM! BUT HE WAS THE SHY TYPE--AND I BEGAN TO DESPAIR OF EVER HAVING HIM PROPOSE TO ME!



"WHEN HIS SISTER AND MY BROTHER BECAME ENGAGED, I THOUGHT AT LAST I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO GET HIM TALKING ABOUT WEDDINGS AND MARRIAGES, ABOUT HOW HAPPY TWO PEOPLE COULD BE TOGETHER! BUT WHENEVER I BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP..."

AREN'T YOU JUST THRILLED ABOUT THE WEDDING, JERRY? WHY, IT'S ONLY A FEW DAYS OFF!

YEAH, SURE, SURE!... COME ON, LET'S GO SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE CROWD IS DOING, TODAY!



THEN, AT THE WEDDING CEREMONY, IN WHICH JERRY WAS BEST MAN AND I WAS MAID OF HONOR...



SHE--SHE'S LOVELY!--I WONDER IF I'LL HAVE ENOUGH NERVE TO PULL THIS STUNT OFF--BUT

AT LEAST I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED--A MARRIAGE LICENCE ALREADY FILLED OUT, TWO RINGS--

THE RING, YOU BABOON--THE RING! DON'T YOU HAVE IT?

TAKE IT EASY, OLD MAN--NOT ONLY DO I HAVE YOUR RING, BUT I'VE ALSO GOT



ONE FOR YOU, DARLING! THEY DON'T HAVE A MONOPOLY ON MARRIAGE, DO THEY, SWEET? HOW ABOUT MAKING IT A DOUBLE WEDDING?

OH, YES, DEAREST--YES!



WHAT'S HOW JERRY PROPOSED TO AGNES, READER...AND WHENEVER YOUR TURN COMES, WRITE AND TELL US HOW HE PROPOSED. WON'T YOU?

Romance WRITER

THIS was the first love story Edith Thompson had ever written. Up till now, she had been a specialist in the tough, hard-boiled type of detective yarn, where every character was grim, heartless, unyielding. And Philip Saunders, editor of the string of magazines for which she wrote, had bought every one of them—and asked for more of the same.

But this one she'd just finished could hardly be said to be like the others. As a matter of fact, it was at the entirely opposite pole, full of the warmth and tenderness of first love, a story into which she'd put all her own yearnings—for the editor who would read it. Yes, there was no doubt about it—she was deeply, hopelessly in love with Philip Saunders!

But he thought of her only as his top crime-story writer, with a heart as hard and callous as those of the private dicks and gun molls who slouched across the pages of her stories. Whenever he'd finish reading a story she'd just brought in, he'd look up and say, "Sister, you write as if you know these yeggs inside out—as if you're one of them yourself!"

And somehow, Edith felt that if he could only see the other side of her, the real Edith, he'd know that she was simply a lovesick girl, with a heart full of tenderness, longing for romance. But there was

no way of letting him know that. All she could do was satisfy herself in this story—prove to herself the emotions that lay buried deep within her throbbing heart by transmitting them to paper. Philip would never know that it was her love laid stark before him. He'd laugh, tell her to go back to what she knew, crime-writing. That was what she feared when she placed her story in his hands.

There was silence as Philip Saunders took the story, read. And when he finally looked up from it, there was an expression of bewitched amazement in his eyes.

"Edith," he said—and the name fell lovingly from his lips. "The heroine in this story—the girl who's in love—it's you, isn't it?"

"Y . . . yes, I guess it is," Edith stammered out.

"And the hero—the man you're in love with—his description fits me to a T!" Philip continued. "Is . . . is this only a story, or did you mean it?"

The starkly yearning love shining out of Edith's eyes was all the answer he needed. A moment later he was holding her in his arms, his lips against hers, murmuring, "Oh, darling . . . I'd given up hope of ever finding out you were capable of love and tenderness—but now I know. Your love story had a happy ending—and so will ours!"

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1931 AND JULY 2, 1946

OF ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, published bi-monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1949 State of New York, County of New York, ss.

I, Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Richard E. Hughes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semi-weekly or tri-weekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1931, and July 2, 1946 (section 557, Penal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor and Business Manager are Publisher: B & J Publishing Co., Inc., 45 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y., Editor: Richard E. Hughes, 122 W. 132nd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, none; Business Manager, Frederick H. Lutz, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I.

2. That the owner is, B & J Publishing Co., Inc., 45 West 45th St., New York, N. Y.; F. H. W. Warner, 7 West 41st Street, New York, N. Y.; Frederick H. Lutz, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owner, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the two paragraphs contain statements embracing affirmations of knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner, and this affiant has no reason to believe that any untrue persons, pretensions or representations has any interest, direct or indirect, in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him. (Signed) Richard E. Hughes, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of September, 1949.

Nai C. Sherman, Notary Public (Commission expires Mar. 30, 1951.)

ROMANCE in a TRANCE



EVER BEEN HYPNOTIZED, READER--- INTO FALLING IN LOVE? NO? WELL, IF YOU THINK YOU'VE MISSED SOMETHING, READ THE STORY OF WEALTHY FRANCINE VAN RHYS--- AND THE HYPNOTIC SPELL WOVEN AROUND HER BY THE MAGNETIC, MASTERFUL MANFRED! READ OF A NEW KIND OF ROMANCE--- DEADLY, DANGEROUS--- AND OF ITS AMAZING AFTERMATH!

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD, READER--- TO BE THE MOST POPULAR, SOUGHT-AFTER DEBUTANTE OF THE NEW YORK SOCIAL SEASON? WELL, I KNEW!"

ALL RIGHT, JACK--- I'M CUTTING IN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE CUTTING IN? ...I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET A DANCE WITH FRANCINE ALL EVENING!

FORGET IT, SQUARES! FRANCINE STAYS WITH ME!



"YES, I EXULTED IN MY POPULARITY--- UNTIL I OVER-HEARD THE FATEFUL WORDS THAT RIPPED MY EXULTANT HEART TO SHREDS!"

STAY AWAY FROM FRANCINE! ALL YOU'RE INTERESTED IN IS HER MONEY!

WHAT ABOUT YOU? DON'T TELL ME YOU AREN'T ITCHING FOR THOSE MILLIONS!

LOOK WHY DON'T WE ALL ADMIT WE WANT TO MARRY HER FOR HER MONEY? MAY THE SMOOTHEST TALKER WIN!

OH!!!

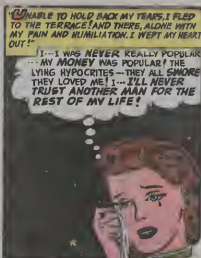




"I COULDN'T CONTAIN MYSELF ANY LONGER! A BITTER, BURNING RAGE BROUGHT ME FORWARD..."

GULP!
IT...IT'S
HER!

YOU...YOU LOATH-
SOME VULTURES!
THANK HEAVENS I
FOUND YOU OUT IN
TIME! I HATE YOU!
I HATE ALL OF
YOU!



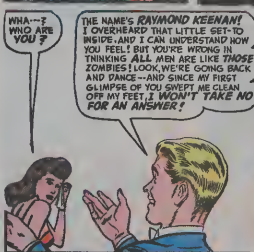
"UNABLE TO HOLD BACK MY TEARS, I FLED TO THE TERRACE! AND THERE, ALONE WITH MY PAIN AND HUMILIATION, I WEPT MY HEART OUT!"

I...I WAS NEVER, REALLY POPULAR...
MY MONEY WAS POPULAR! THE
LYING HYPOCRITES--THEY ALL SMORE
THEY LOVED ME! I...I'LL NEVER
TRUST ANOTHER MAN FOR THE
REST OF MY LIFE!



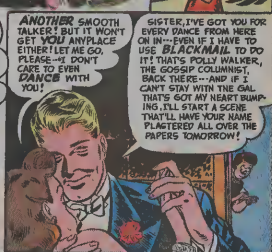
THEY...
THEY'RE ALL
HATEFUL...

NOT ALL
OF THEM!
IF YOU'LL
DRY YOUR
EYES AND TURN
AROUND, YOU'LL
SEE ONE MAN
WHO ISN'T!



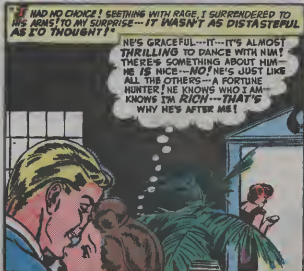
WHA---?
WHO ARE
YOU?

THE NAME'S **RAYMOND KEENAN!**
I OVERHEARD THAT LITTLE SET-TO
INSIDE, AND I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW
YOU FEEL! BUT YOU'RE WRONG IN
THINKING ALL MEN ARE LIKE THOSE
ZOMBIES! LOOK, WE'RE GOING BACK
AND DANCE--AND SINCE MY FIRST
GLIMPSE OF YOU SWEEPED ME CLEAN
OFF MY FEET, I WON'T TAKE NO
FOR AN ANSWER!



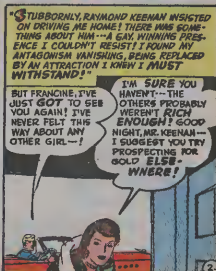
ANOTHER SMOOTH
TALKER! BUT IT WON'T
GET YOU ANYPLACE
EITHER! LET ME GO,
PLEASE--I DON'T
CARE TO EVEN
DANCE WITH
YOU!

SISTER, I'VE GOT YOU FOR
EVERY DANCE FROM HERE
ON IN--EVEN IF I HAVE TO
USE **BLACKMAIL** TO DO
IT! THAT'S POLLY WALKER,
THE GOSSIP COLUMNIST,
BACK THERE--AND IF I
CAN'T STAY WITH THE GAL
THAT'S GOT MY HEART BUMP-
ING, I'LL START A SCENE
THAT'LL HAVE YOUR NAME
PLASTERED ALL OVER THE
PAPERS TOMORROW!



"I HAD NO CHOICE! SEETHING WITH RAGE, I SURRENDERED TO HIS ARMS! TO MY SURPRISE... IT WASN'T AS DISTASTEFUL AS I'D THOUGHT!"

HE'S GRACEFUL...IT...IT'S ALMOST
THRILLING TO DANCE WITH HIM!
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM--
HE IS NICE--NO! HE'S JUST LIKE
ALL THE OTHERS--A FORTUNE
HUNTER! HE KNOWS WHO I AM--
KNOWS I'M RICH--THAT'S
WHY HE'S AFTER ME!



"STUBBORNLY, RAYMOND KEENAN INSISTED ON DRIVING ME HOME! THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM--A GAY, WINNING PRESENCE I COULDN'T RESIST! I FOUND MY ANTAGONISM VANISHING, BEING REPLACED BY AN ATTRACTION I KNEW I MUST WITHSTAND!"

BUT FRANCINE, I'VE
JUST GOT TO SEE
YOU AGAIN! I'VE
NEVER FELT THIS
WAY ABOUT ANY
OTHER GIRL--!

I'M SURE YOU
HAVEN'T--THE
OTHERS PROBABLY
WEREN'T RICH
ENOUGH! GOOD
NIGHT, MR. KEENAN--
I SUGGEST YOU TRY
PROSPECTING FOR
GOLD ELSE-
WHERE!

"BUT IT WASN'T AS EASY TO BRUSH HIM OFF AS I'D THOUGHT! PERHAPS MONEY MEANT MORE TO HIM THAN TO THE OTHERS...BECAUSE NOTHING HALTED HIS PERSISTENT PHONE CALLS AND APPEARANCES! FINALLY..."

THAT YOUNG MAN WAS JUST HERE AGAIN, MISS FRANCINE! I TOLD HIM WHAT YOU'D SAID... THAT YOU'D NOTIFY THE POLICE IF HE ANNOYED YOU AGAIN!

THANK YOU, PARKER! I'M SURE THAT'S THE LAST OF HIM!

YOU WOULDN'T BE SO SURE...IF YOU KNEW HOW MUCH I HAD TO SEE YOU...HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN!

YOU!

"THIS WAS TOO MUCH! FURIOUS, I DETERMINED TO PUT A STOP TO THIS INSOLENCE ONCE AND FOR ALL!"

PLEASE LISTEN TO ME FRANCINE! IT'S BEEN TORTURE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU! YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW... I FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT I SAW YOU!

YOU MEAN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH MY MONEY! THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN TO DO WITHOUT IT... IN JAIL! ...PARKER! RODGERS!

GOT HIM, MISS FRANCINE!

FRANCINE, LISTEN TO ME...

CALL THE POLICE PARKER... TELL THEM WE'VE CAUGHT A BURGLAR!

"Later..."

MISS VAN RHYS, I'M SURE THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE! I CAN'T BOOK THAT KEENAN BOY ON A CHARGE OF BURGLARY... BECAUSE THE SON OF J. F. KEENAN, THE GREAT TEXAS OIL MILLIONAIRE, COULDN'T BE A BURGLAR!

OHH! I...I NEVER DREAMED HE... PLEASE DROP ALL CHARGES, SERGEANT!

"THE REVELATION CAME AS A STAGGERING SHOCK TO ME... BUT HARDLY AS STAGGERING AS THE NEXT THOUGHT THAT HIT ME LIKE A PILE-DRIVER, SENT MY HEART SOARING TO THE SKIES!"

IF...IF HE'S THAT RICH, HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AFTER MY MONEY! IT'S ME HE CARES FOR...HE REALLY LOVES ME! AND I...I MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT TO MYSELF...I THINK I'VE FALLEN FOR HIM! THAT'S WHY I WAS SO NARSH WITH HIM...BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST MY HEART EVEN WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS A FORTUNE HUNTER! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW HE ISN'T...!

"S KNEW HE'D BE BACK...BUT MY HUNGRY HEART LEAPED AT THE SIGHT OF HIM!"

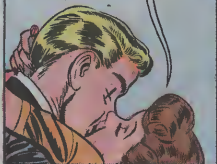
I...I BROUGHT YOU A PEACE OFFERING, FRAN...IF YOU'LL TAKE IT FROM A JAILBIRD! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAD ME RELEASED...BUT IT STOPPED ME FROM BREAKING OUT TO SEE YOU!

I...I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, RAY... BLIND TO MY OWN FEELINGS!

"I SENSED THE SOFT SURRENDER IN MY EYES, SWAYED TOWARD ME...AND I WAS IN HIS ARMS! HIS LIPS WERE ON MINE, SENDING A BLAZING ECSTASY COURSE TO THE CORE OF MY BEING! AT LAST IT WAS TRUE... I WAS IN LOVE!"

FRANCINE... SWEETHEART...

OH... RAY...



"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE ENCHANTED ONES! I WENT EVERYWHERE WITH RAY... EVEN TO STRANGE PLACES LIKE DANNY'S BOWERY FOLLIES, IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK'S SLUMS!"

DON'T KNOW WHY-EE... THERE'S NO CLOUDS UP IN THE SKY-EE...

THAT'S THE MOST AWFUL SINGING I'VE EVER HEARD, RAY! IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO SEE?

NO, SHE'S JUST PART OF THE ATMOSPHERE! BUT WAIT! YOU SEE THIS HYPNOTIST WHO'S ON THE PROGRAM! HIS NAME'S MANFRED...AND I HEAR HE'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!



"MANFRED...THE NAME EVOKED A STRANGE, EXCITING PREMONITION! AND THEN THERE HE WAS...AND IT WAS AS IF AN ELECTRIC CURRENT HAD PULSED THROUGH ME! I WATCHED, FASCINATED...GRIPPED BY AN ODD MAGNETISM..."

LOOK DEEPLY INTO MY EYES...DEEPLY! YOUR WILL POWER IS DRAINING AWAY...I HAVE BECOME YOUR MASTER...OBEY ME! NOW YOU ARE NO LONGER A MAN...BUT A BIRD!

YES...YES...A BIRD...



YES...YOU ARE A BIRD! YOU WANT TO FLAP YOUR WINGS, FLY AWAY!

HAW! HAW! WOW...WHAT A HYPNOTIST!



"I DIDN'T WANT TO GO UP, BUT SOME STRANGE, COMPELLING FORCE STRONGER THAN MYSELF MADE ME BRUSH RAY'S HAND ASIDE! AND A MOMENT LATER, I FOUND MYSELF ON THE STAGE, GAZING INTO THOSE BLACK POOLS OF STRANGE FIRE THAT WERE HIS EYES, BEING DRAWN DEEPER INTO THOSE DEPTHS...DEEPER...BECOMING LOST IN THEM...LOST...LOST..."

"ARTISTRY, HIS MASTERY OVER THE HUMAN WILL, ENTRANCED ME...FILLED ME WITH STRANGE, NAMELESS EMOTIONS! AND THEN, HIS EYES ROAMED OVER THE AUDIENCE, FIXED BURNINGLY ON ME!"

AN HERE'S SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE A GOOD SUBJECT...THIS LOVELY YOUNG LADY! WON'T YOU COME UP PLEASE?

ME? I...I DON'T KNOW...YES! I...I'LL COME UP!

FRAN!



GAZE DEEPLY...DEEPLY! YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY WILL OF YOUR OWN...YOU ARE BECOMING SUBJECT TO MY WILL...TO MY MASTERY OVER YOU! SAY IT...I AM YOUR MASTER!

YOU...YOU...ARE MY MASTER...!



"I TRIED FIGHTING AGAINST THE OVERPOWERING FORCE THAT SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM HIS BLAZING EYES, LEAVING ME DRAINED OF ALL WILL POWER---WEAK---HELPLESS! BUT SUDDENLY, I DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT ANY LONGER! I FELT CONSCIOUSNESS DROPPING AWAY... WITH ONLY A VOICE HAMMERING AWAY AT ME FROM A GREAT DISTANCE!"

"YOU ARE AWARE ONLY OF MY VOICE---THE VOICE THAT YOU MUST OBEY! WHEN I SNAP MY FINGERS, YOU WILL AWAKE TO FIND YOURSELF IN LOVE WITH ME---DESPERATELY IN LOVE! YOU WILL THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND ME---KISS ME!"

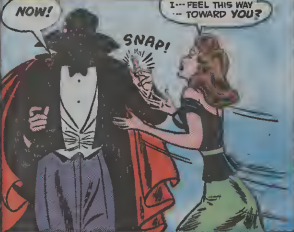


"A SHARP SNAP PENETRATED THROUGH THE NAZE SURROUNDING ME---AND I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF AWAKE AGAIN, BACK TO REALITY---AND FILLED WITH AN OVERWHELMING LOVE FOR THIS STRANGER WHO STOOD BEFORE ME!"

NOW!

SNAP!

OH-HH! WHY DO I---FEEL THIS WAY---TOWARD YOU?



"I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ALL-COMPELLING FORCE WHICH DREW ME MAGNETICALLY TOWARD HIM! ALL I KNEW WAS THAT SUDDENLY, MY ARMS WERE ABOUT HIM! MY LIPS TOUCHED HIS---AND AN UNCONTROLLABLE FIRE SWEEPED ME FROM HEAD TO TOE!"

I---
LOVE
YOU!



"BURST OF RAUCOUS LAUGHTER FROM THE AUDIENCE BROUGHT ME TO MYSELF---TO BURNING SHAME AS I REALIZED THIS HAD BEEN HYPNOSIS!"

RAY! TAKE
---TAKE ME
AWAY FROM
HERE---NOW!

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING
---AND FOR BEING AN EX-
CELLENT SUBJECT!

HAW!
HAW!
HAW!



"BUT MINUTES LATER, THE SHAME HAD FADED AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS BEFORE THE BURNING MEMORY OF THAT KISS! I FOUGHT AGAINST IT---BUT I COULDN'T HELP RELIVING THAT ECSTATIC MOMENT IN MANFRED'S ARMS!"

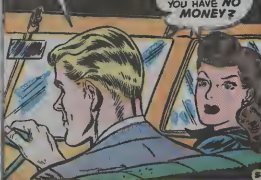
THAT CHEAP VAUDEVILLE
TRICKSTER! I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN
YOU THERE!

WHY, RAY, I BELIEVE
YOU'RE JEALOUS OF
NIM! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE
THE RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT
HIM LIKE THAT JUST BE-
CAUSE YOU'RE A MILLION-
AIRE AND FEEL SUPERIOR
TO HIM! HE'S JUST TRYING
TO EARN A LIVING---AND
AT LEAST IT'S AN HONEST
WAY!



ME---A MILLIONAIRE? FRANCIE, KID, ARE YOU
OFF THE BEAM! SURE MY DAD'S GOT DOUGH
APLENTY---BUT OIL'S NOT FOR ME! THAT'S WHAT
WE FOUGHT ABOUT---I WANT TO MAKE MY CAREER
IN MUSIC---AND THAT'S WHY HE'S CUT
ME OFF WITHOUT A CENT!

WHAT?
YOU MEAN--
YOU HAVE NO
MONEY?



"MY HEART THUDDED FIERCELY, BURNINGLY WITHIN ME...FOR I FEARED THE WORDS I KNEW I WAS GOING TO HEAR!"

"I'M DEAD BROKE. MONEY! MAYBE I WILL HAVE TO LIVE OFF YOUR MONEY FOR A WHILE...BUT ONLY UNTIL MY SYMPHONY BECOMES A SUCCESS!"

"YOU... YOU LYING CHEAT! YOU FORTUNE HUNTER! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE...YOU TRIED TO WORM YOUR WAY INTO MY AFFECTIONS SO YOU COULD MARRY MY MILLIONS! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!"



"I'D LEARNED MY LESSON...NEVER AGAIN WOULD I TRUST A MAN'S LOVE UNLESS HE WERE IGNORANT OF MY WEALTH! ONLY IF HE THOUGHT ME POOR COULD I BE SURE OF HIM! BUT WAS THERE ANY OTHER MAN I COULD POSSIBLY LOVE? THAT NIGHT, MY DREAMS GAVE ME THE ANSWER..."

"I AM YOUR MASTER... YOU ARE MINE!"

"I... LOVE... YOU!"



"THAT SAME THRILLING MAGIC FILLED ME--AND NEXT EVENING, DRAWN BY A STRANGE MAGNETISM, I FOUND MYSELF WALKING ON THE BOWERY! I HAD TO SEE HIM AGAIN--TO SEE IF THAT POWERFUL FASCINATION WAS MORE THAN A DREAM!"

"I-- I STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY...AS IF SOMETHING DRAWS ME IRRESISTIBLY TO HIM! BUT HE-- HE DIDN'T EVEN NOD OR SMILE AT ME! I-- I GUESS I'M JUST YESTERDAY'S GUINEA PIG TO HIM-- I'D BETTER LEAVE!"

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND APPRECIATION OF MY LAST PERFORMANCE HERE! GOOD NIGHT-- AND GOODBYE!"



"HIS LAST PERFORMANCE...IT WAS GOOD-BYE! MY HEART WAS HEAVY WITH DESOLATION AS I SLOWLY MADE MY WAY OUTSIDE--BUT THERE..."

"I EXPECTED YOU TONIGHT! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T KEEP AWAY--I KNOW YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO! MAY I--WALK WITH YOU?"

"OH, Y--YES, OF COURSE!"



"THAT WAS THE STRANGEST WALK OF MY LIFE, READER! AS IF BE WITCHED, CAUGHT IN SOME STRANGE WEB OF FATE, WE WALKED ON IN ENCHANTED SILENCE! NEVER HAD I FELT SO CLOSE TO ANY MAN! AND THEN, ON THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE--"

"WHO ARE YOU THAT YOU SHOULD WALK OUT OF NOWHERE--AND CREEP DEEP INTO MY HEART? I THOUGHT I HAD POWER OVER PEOPLE BUT YOU--YOU HAVE ME HELPLESS BOUND TO YOU!"

"I-- I'M AFRAID I'M NOT ANYBODY REALLY--JUST-- A GIRL..."



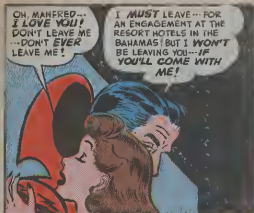
"JUST A GIRL?--NO-- THE GIRL I LOVE!"

"OH-- MANFRED..."



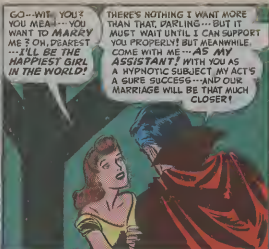
"HE WAS A STRANGER-- BUT A BLAZING METEOR WHO HAD LIT MY LIFE WITH THE LIGHT OF LASTING LOVE! AND WITHIN HIS STRONG ARMS, HIS LIPS ON MINE, I KNEW I HAD FINALLY FOUND TRUE ROMANCE!"





OH, MANFRED...
I LOVE YOU!
DON'T LEAVE ME
...DON'T EVER
LEAVE ME!

I **MUST** LEAVE... FOR
AN ENGAGEMENT AT THE
RESORT HOTELS IN THE
BAHAMAS! BUT I **WON'T**
BE LEAVING YOU--IF
YOU'LL COME WITH
ME!

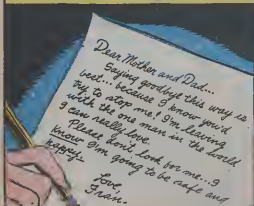


GO--WIT, YOU?
YOU MEAN... YOU
WANT TO MARRY
ME? OH, DEAREST
...I'LL BE THE
HAPPIEST GIRL
IN THE WORLD!

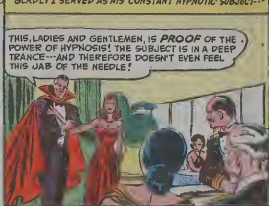
THERE'S NOTHING I WANT MORE
THAN THAT, DARLING... BUT IT
MUST WAIT UNTIL I CAN SUPPORT
YOU PROPERLY! BUT MEANWHILE,
COME WITH ME... **AS MY**
ASSISTANT! WITH YOU AS
A HYPNOTIC SUBJECT MY ACT'S
A SURE SUCCESS...AND OUR
MARRIAGE WILL BE THAT MUCH
CLOSER!

"**HE** LOVED ME...WANTED TO MARRY ME...AND
HE DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS, HOW WEALTHY I WAS! THIS
WAS THE MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR...HIS WAS A LOVE I
COULD BE SURE OF, BECAUSE IT WAS FOR MYSELF
ALONE! HEART BEATING HIGH WITH THE PROMISE OF
GLOWING HAPPINESS AHEAD, I MADE MY PREPARATIONS--"

"**YES, I WAS HAPPY--JUST BEING CLOSE TO MANFRED**
ON THE VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES WAS ENOUGH FOR ME!
GLADLY I SERVED AS HIS CONSTANT HYPNOTIC SUBJECT--"



Dear Mother and Dad...
Saying goodbye this way is
best... because I know you'd
try to stop me! I'm leaving
with the one man in the world
I can really love.
Please don't look for me... I
know I'm going to be safe and
happy.
Love,
Frank.



THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS **PROOF** OF THE
POWER OF HYPNOSIS! THE SUBJECT IS IN A DEEP
TRANCE...AND THEREFORE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL
THIS JAB OF THE NEEDLE!

"**NO, I FELT NOTHING WHILE UNDER HYPNOSIS...THOUGH MY ARM**
DID ACHE FOR DAYS AFTERWARD! BUT I WAS GLAD TO DO
IT...ENDURING WILLINGLY THE EVEN GREATER PAIN OF THE
HOTEL PERFORMANCES LATER!"

YES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS THE
SECRET OF THE HINDU YOGI! THEY USE SELF-
HYPNOSIS--AND MY LOVELY SUBJECT FEELS
ABSOLUTELY NO DISCOMFORT OR PAIN WHILE
LYING ON HER BED OF NAILS... **AS LONG**
AS SHE REMAINS IN THE TRANCE
WHICH I...THE GREAT MANFRED
...IMPOSED ON HER!

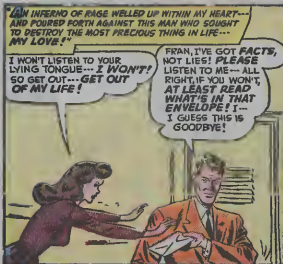
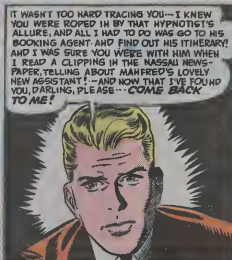
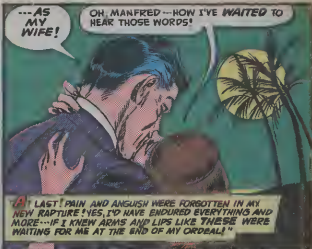
YES, BUT CAN
YOU IMAGINE
THE AFTER-
EFFECTS--
WHEN HE TAKES
HER **OUT** OF
THE TRANCE!
THE POOR GIRL
...IT'S PROBABLY
AGONY!



"**THE PRICE I HAD TO PAY FOR LOVE WAS A**
PAINFUL ONE... BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! FOR
DAY BY DAY, AS MANFRED'S FEES MOUNTED, WE
WERE BROUGHT THAT MUCH CLOSER TO OUR
WEDDING DAY!"

IT--IT FEELS AS IF I'VE SLEPT ON
THAT BED OF NAILS FOR CENTURIES!
BUT POOR MANFRED...HE'S **SO**
BROKEN UP OVER THE SUFFERING
HE THINKS HE'S **FORCING**
ON ME! HE DOESN'T KNOW I'D EVEN
DIE FOR HIM!





"LREN CAME MANFRED...AND TEMPESTUOUS RAGE VANISHED BEFORE HIS TENDERNESS! RAY'S BLUNDER ATTEMPTS SEEMED FUNNY NOW...I COULD EVEN LAUGH AS I TOLD WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED!"

---IMAGINE THAT, DARLING--HE THOUGHT HE COULD DESTROY MY LOVE FOR YOU BY TELLING ME FANTASTIC LIES ABOUT YOUR PAST! HA, HA--I ORDERED HIM OUT BEFORE HE COULD SAY A WORD!

HMM! --LISTEN, DEAREST --FORGET ABOUT HIM! I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU! WHY DELAY OUR WEDDING ANY LONGER?...WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW FOR A NEARBY TROPICAL ISLE! WE'LL BE MARRIED...AND HAVE THE HONEY-MOON THERE!



OH, DARLING--
DARLING! YOU'VE
MADE ME THE
HAPPIEST GIRL IN
THE WORLD!

FOR NOW
--AND
ALWAYS!



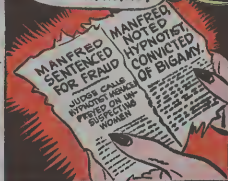
"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO PACK! BUT THEN--AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE--"

IT ALL SEEMS SO RIDICULOUS NOW--BUT JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT, LET'S SEE WHAT IT WAS THAT RAY TRIED TO MAKE ME BELIEVE ABOUT YOU! IT'S RIGHT IN HERE--

FRAN,
NO!
DON'T...



OH, IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE
--OHHH! NO, NO!



"I STAGGERED UNDER THE IMPACT OF THOSE WORDS, REELED BACK IN HORROR! A BIGAMIST--A MENACE --AND THIS WAS THE MAN I HAD THOUGHT TO LOVE!"

RAY WAS RIGHT --NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS DON'T LIE! I--I WAS JUST ANOTHER "UNSUSPECTING WOMAN" TO YOU--

ALL RIGHT, IT'S TRUE--SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL LEARN THE WHOLE OF IT! THERE WASN'T MUCH HARM IN USING YOU THE WAY I DID! YOU WERE LOVESTRUCK ENOUGH TO MAKE A PERFECT SUBJECT --AND BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO PUT MY ACT OVER WITH A BANG!



I MADE MONEY OUT OF YOU--BUT WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER THAT REPORTED YOUR MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE, WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE AND HOW RICH YOU ARE, I REALIZED I'D STUMBLER ON A GOLD-MINE! THAT WAS WHEN I SAID WE'D BE MARRIED--AND WE'RE STILL GOING THROUGH WITH IT!

NO, I WON'T!
YOU CAN'T
MAKE ME
DO IT!



OH, YES, YOU **WILL!** YOU'RE MY **SUBJECT**, REMEMBER? YOU CAN'T FIGHT AGAINST MY HYPNOTIC POWER...IT'S BECOME SECOND NATURE WITH YOU! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK INTO MY **EYES**...**LOOK DEEPLY! I-AM-YOUR-MASTER! YOU-MUST-OBEY-ME!**

NO...
NO...



THOSE EYES...TWIN INFERNAL ORBS--PIERCING MY BROW/ MY SOUL! DOWN...DOWN INTO THEIR FIENDISH DEPTHS I SANK-- DRAINED OF ALL WILL...HELPLESS! YES, HE WAS MY MASTER --AND I, HIS SLAVE!

YOU LOVE ME...YOU WANT TO MARRY ME...YOU WILL MARRY ME! SAY IT...SAY IT!

YES, I--I LOVE YOU! I-- WILL-- MARRY YOU!



EXCELLENT, MY DEAR! AND NOW TO HIRE A BOAT THAT WILL TAKE US TO OUR **WEDDING ISLE!** THERE'S A MINISTER THERE, AND YOU'LL BE MY WIFE SOON... MY **RICH WIFE!**

YOUR... WIFE--



LUCKY I PLAYED A HUNCH AND TRAILED THEM! SHE WAS WALKING LIKE SOMEONE WHO WAS DRUGGED...OR **HYPNOTIZED!**

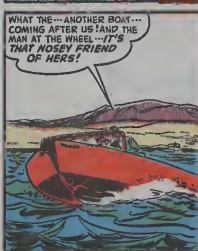


QUICK! LET ME HAVE A BOAT THAT'S FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH THE ONE THAT JUST LEFT!

SURE THING! TAKE THE **BUOYANT BOY** HERE--IT'S THE FASTEST LITTLE BOAT IN THE **BAHAMAS!**



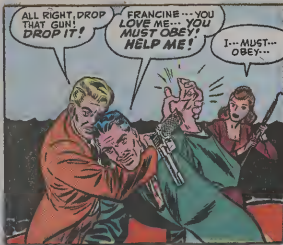
WHAT THE---ANOTHER BOAT... COMING AFTER US! AND THE MAN AT THE WHEEL---IT'S THAT **NOSEY FRIEND OF HERS!**



ALL RIGHT, MANFRED, YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH! I'M **TAKING HER BACK!** AND DON'T TRY HYPNOTIZING ME---IT WON'T WORK!

I DON'T ALWAYS RELY ON HYPNOTISM, YOU **MEDDLER!** I'VE GOT A **BETTER WEAPON** TO DEAL WITH FOOLS LIKE YOU!





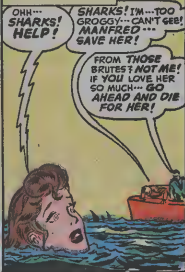
"AS IF FROM SOME DISTANT DREAM WORLD, I HEARD THE VOICE THAT RULED MY MIND AND HEART! ROBOTLIKE, IN A TRANCE, I SEIZED SOME NEARBY OBJECT-- LUNGED FORWARD--"



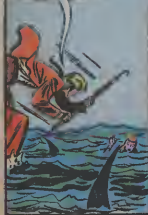
"BUT MY MOMENTUM CARRIED ME FORWARD... TOO FAR FORWARD!"



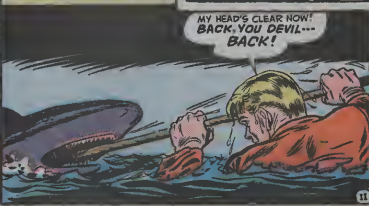
"THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF COLD WATER CLEARED MY HEAD, BROUGHT ME BACK TO REALITY! BUT JUST AS I WAS REMEMBERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED, I FROZE WITH HORROR!"

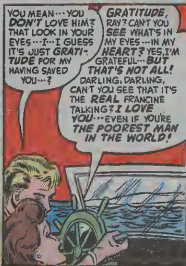
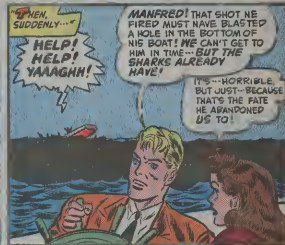
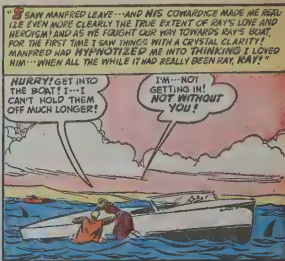
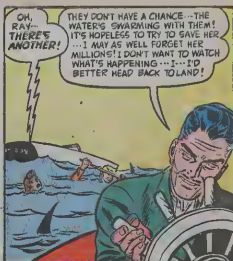


THERE ISN'T--A CHANCE IN A MILLION... BUT I'VE GOT TO... GOT TO...



"I WATCHED... UNBELIEVINGLY! IT WAS RAY... RISKING A HORRIBLE DEATH FOR ME! I'D BEEN SURE HE WAS A MERE FORTUNE-HUNTER, BUT THIS... THIS WAS PROOF OF THE MOST DEVOTED LOVE IN THE WORLD!"





SMALL BUST WOMEN

Special Design "Up-And-Out" Bra
Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

COLORS:

- NUDE
- WHITE
- BLACK
- BLUE

SIZES:

28
to
38

NO PADS! NO ARTIFICIAL BUST BUILDUP NEEDED

Self conscious about your flat looking bustline? Figure Beauty starts with a glamorous bustline. The sensational "Up-And-Out" Bra has an exclusive secret patent pend. feature that tends to lift and cup flat, unshapely, small busts into a **FULLER, WELL-ROUNDED, EXCITING BUSTLINE** like magic instantly.

One of Our Many Satisfied Customers Below Says:

"... It's amazing how its special feature gives my bustline real glamour."

—Miss Daris Harris, Wichita, Kansas



BEFORE Miss Harris wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, she was flat, unshapely, and shy.

AFTER she wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, her attractive bustline gave her poise, confidence.

Now Wear All Dresses, Blouses, Sweaters, etc. (No matter how form fitting) With Bustline Confidence!

With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors: Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

SEND NO MONEY!

FREE 10 DAY TRIAL COUPON

Tested Sales, Dept. MR-45B12
20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Profile View Of Hidden Feature in Bra

which does wonders for your individual bust problem.

Below are some types who can be helped.

Special patent pending bust making feature on inside of bra lifts, supports and cups your busts. No Matter Whether They Are Small, Flat or Sagging, into Fuller, Well-Rounded "Up and Out" curves like magic instantly!



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Rush to me my "Up-And-Out" Bra in plain wrapper in size and color checked below. I will pay postman on delivery \$2.49 plus postage. If not delighted in 10 days, I will return merchandise for my money back.

Size _____ Color _____ How Many _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zone, State _____

Check here if you wish to save postage by enclosing \$2.49 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee.

you're
the most
desirable
girl in his
life in this
irresistible
dress



Romaine LOVE LURE

only \$6.98

Such beguiling styling in sheer weight Romaine rayon crepe that shows up your figure to enticing advantage. Alluring accents of lavish lace spice those sweet cap sleeves, and ripple 'round the flirting peplum that compliments your ring-sized waist. There's endless intrigue in that glamorous "nude-look" neckline of filmy black marquisette, and in your exciting curves molded by the 20" back zipper. ROMAINE LOVE-LURE gives you so much sorcery... for such a little price! Only \$6.98

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Wilco Fashions

Colors: Black, Beige, Aqua, Dusty Rose with alluring black lace.

Junior Sizes: 9 to 17

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SIZE	1st COLOR CHOICE	2nd COLOR CHOICE

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If not your heart's desire return in 10 days for full purchase price refund

March/April 1950

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From Rags to Romance

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The Wishing Well

text 1

No Time for Love

Pete Riss° 10

Embraceable Enemy

John Celardo 10

How He Proposed

Charles Sultan (but ???) 1

Romance Writer

text 1

OS

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Romance in a Trance

Bob Lubbers 12